STATEMENT BY GOVERNOR CHARLIE CRIST REGARDING THE FLORIDA SENATE'S APPROVAL OF THE COMPACT WITH THE SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA

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"I want to thank the Florida Senate – and specifically Senator Dennis Jones and Senate President Jeff Atwater – for helping secure Florida's future by ratifying the compact with the Seminole Tribe. Once ratified by the Florida House, the compact will provide for the immediate use of millions of dollars that will directly benefit the people of Florida, as well as at least \$1 billion during the compact's first five years.

"The compact will improve the quality of life of Floridians and benefit both the tribe and our entire state, and I encourage the Florida House to take similar action as quickly as possible. These much-needed funds should find their way into Florida's classrooms to support the work of our students and teachers – and help us continue to improve schools throughout Florida."