

RESOLUTION

(Adopted by the 1997 convention delegates)

SUPPORT OF A NATIONAL CHILD SAFETY LOCK LAW

- WHEREAS, The PTA in its purposes and programs promotes safety for children, youth, and families; and
- WHEREAS, The National PTA supports trigger guards and other protective devices to prevent accidental discharge of non-powder firearms; and
- WHEREAS, The National PTA encourages its constituent bodies to educate parents, children, youth and communities about the importance of firearm safety and awareness, and to participate in firearm safety and awareness programs; and
- WHEREAS, Every day in America 14 children under the age of 20 are killed with firearms; and
- WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, an estimated 1.2 million latch-key children in America have access to loaded and unlocked firearms; and
- WHEREAS, *Prevention* magazine's Children's Health Index 1996 reports that nearly one-quarter of all children ages 10 to 17 indicated that they have access to a gun in their home; and
- WHEREAS, A gun kept in the home for self-protection is 43 times more likely to kill family members and friends than it is an intruder; and
- WHEREAS, In Colorado, 1 in 5 adolescent deaths are due to firearms; and
- WHEREAS, There are a variety of child safety locks, including inexpensive devices known as trigger locks, which, if properly used, can prevent a child from gaining access to a firearm; and
- WHEREAS, The required sale of trigger locks, combined with warnings regarding the dangers and legal consequences of improper storage, will help to promote the safe storage of firearms; and
- WHEREAS, The U.S. General Accounting Office found that child safety locks could have prevented all unintentional firearm deaths in which children under age 6 killed themselves or others; now therefore be it
- Resolved, That the Colorado PTA endorse national legislation requiring that any licensed manufacturer, importer, or dealer must include a separate child safety or locking device with each handgun purchase, and be it further
- Resolved, That the Colorado PTA endorse national legislation requiring that a warning about proper firearm storage accompany all firearm purchases; and be it further

Resolved, That the Colorado PTA join with Handgun Control, Inc., and the Colorado Physicians for Social Responsibility in communicating its support of national child safety lock legislation to the United State Congress, the President of the United States, and members of Colorado PTA.