

RESOLUTION

(Adopted by the 1987 convention delegates)

EXTREMISM

- WHEREAS, The Objects of the PTA are to promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school, community and place of worship, and to develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for all children and youth the highest advantages in physical, mental, social, and spiritual education; and
- WHEREAS, The Objects of the PTA are also to bring into closer relation the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the education of children and youth; and
- WHEREAS, Increasing extremists of both the Right and the Left are attempting to destroy the pluralistic system we have lived under for more than two hundred years; and
- WHEREAS, These groups are trying to change education by controlling what students read and study and to shape our schools into a tool for inculcating youth with their political, social, and religious views; and
- WHEREAS, Censorship of this kind denies students the right to explore ideas and to make informed, rational judgments; therefore be it
- Resolved, That the Colorado PTA direct the Education Commission to study extremism and prepare workshops to discuss the threats it poses; and urge school boards to establish and maintain effective written policies for the selection of books and other materials, subjects, or teachers; and be it
- Resolved, That if such selection and complaint policies are in place, the PTA study how effective they are in protecting the freedom of students and teachers as well as legitimate parental rights and be it further.
- Resolved, That the Colorado PTA be prepared and willing to oppose all efforts by extremists to take over the PTA organization and to change the PTA from its purpose of being a non-partisan, non-sectarian organization working on behalf of children and youth into an extremist supporting group; and be it further

Resolved, That the National PTA, its state and local affiliates, oppose censorship efforts, conduct public education programs, and support the importance of First Amendment rights guaranteeing the freedom to speak, to read, to teach, to learn, and to discuss; and be it further

Resolved, That the Colorado PTA urge its parent organization, the National PTA, to keep its membership alerted, and oppose all undemocratic pressures on schools and families.