

## RESOLUTION

(Adopted by the 1990 convention delegates)

### GANGS AND THEIR IMPACT

- WHEREAS, National PTA's mission is to assist parents in developing skills needed to raise and protect their children; and
- WHEREAS, Colorado PTA's objective is to promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school, community and place of worship; and
- WHEREAS, Colorado PTA shall work with schools to provide a safe environment for children and youth; and
- WHEREAS, Colorado PTA shall cooperate with other organizations and agencies concerned with child welfare; and
- WHEREAS, Current youth gangs have become a violent entity in the community engaging in violent acts and illegal activities (i.e., drive-by shootings, robbery, aggravated assault, graffiti); and
- WHEREAS, Drugs and alcohol are integral parts of gang activity; and
- WHEREAS, Youth, family members and community are affected emotionally, physically and financially by gang activity; and
- WHEREAS, Violence and vandalism have reached proportions which threaten the ability of our education system to carry out its primary function. The peace of our schools is threatened and the learning climate seriously polluted by gang activity; now, therefore, be it
- Resolved, That it is the responsibility of parents, educators, and the entire community to keep informed of gang behavior and its impact; and be it further
- Resolved, That PTA support the efficient and full use of current community programs and the development of new programs to adequately address the emotional, physical and financial impact to families of gang activity, and be it further

Resolved, That in order to prevent gang involvement, communication interaction among youth, parents, schools, teachers, principals, local boards of education, agencies, places of worship and police is imperative through awareness programs, publications and news media; and be it further

Resolved, That children should be taught respect of others and their property and to feel self esteem in all that they do; and be it further

Resolved, That Colorado PTA work in coalition with schools, community organizations and businesses to provide opportunities and alternatives to gang involvement; and be it further

Resolved, That teachers and other school personnel be provided opportunities to educate themselves in order to maintain a safe environment for students and themselves.