

## RESOLUTION

(Adopted by the 1987 convention delegates)

### TEENAGE PREGNANCY

- 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, More than 1.2 million teenagers become pregnant each year in the United States (30,000 of whom are under the age of 15), and more than 10,000 teenagers between the ages of 13 and 19 became pregnant in Colorado in 1984; and
- WHEREAS, Teen parents begin adulthood with diminished education, inadequate job skills, high unemployment, increased health risk, and inadequate parenting skills; and
- WHEREAS, One of the leading contributors to childhood poverty is the growing incidence of parenthood among unmarried teenagers, and mothers in Colorado who had their first child as a teenager, account for half of the state's AFDC budget; and
- WHEREAS, Children born to adolescent mothers in Colorado in 1985 cost Colorado taxpayers more than \$216 million; and
- WHEREAS, Infant death risk is twice as high for teen mothers as for mothers in their 20s, therefore be it
- Resolved, That the Colorado PTA encourage parents to discuss all aspects of human sexuality with their children, including the exploration of family values, informed decision-making related to responsible sexual behavior, and ways to cope with pressure to engage in sexual behavior, including the right to say no and the benefits of saying no; and be it further

Resolved, That the Colorado PTA encourage parent participation in the determination of comprehensive health and sex education curriculum that includes instruction on the topics of responsible sexual behavior, the risks associated with sexual activities and teenage pregnancy, and the range of options available to teenagers, including the right to abstain from sexual relations; and be it further

Resolved, That the Colorado PTA support community efforts to provide additional financial assistance and job-training skills, comprehensive prenatal education and care, parenting skills training for pregnant teenagers.