

RESOLUTION

(Adopted by the 2016 Convention delegates)

AFFIRMING COMMITMENT TO CHILD ADVOCACY

WHEREAS, The National Parent Teacher Association (PTA), founded in 1897, is the oldest and largest child advocacy association in the United States, with a long and distinguished history of promoting the education, health, and well-being of all children by influencing federal policy and laws in such areas as creation of kindergarten classes, child labor laws, public health service, hot and healthy lunch programs, juvenile justice system, mandatory immunization, arts in education and safety in schools; and

WHEREAS, The Colorado PTA, founded in 1907, has a long history of promoting the education, health, and well-being of children by influencing state policy and laws in such areas as parent engagement, district and school accountability committees, immunity for school crossing guards, school funding and Amendment 23, school trust lands, and the State Advisory Council on Parent Involvement in Education; and

WHEREAS, Advocating for every child is the top priority for PTA, requiring a renewed commitment to engaging parents in the education of their children, as more than 40 years of research confirms that when families are engaged, students are more likely to adapt well to school, attend school regularly, earn higher grades, score higher on tests, develop better social skills, demonstrate improved behavior, graduate from high school on time, and pursue post-secondary education, regardless of their income level; furthermore, recent research on school reform has demonstrated that meaningful family engagement is an essential component of successful and sustainable school turnaround reforms, as important as school leadership and curriculum alignment; and

WHEREAS, The mission of PTA is “to make every child’s potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children”; and

WHEREAS, The needs of the state’s youth are not being met adequately in terms of education or physical, nutritional, and mental well-being, with the state experiencing a high achievement gap, a high dropout rate, one of the fastest-growing rates of children in poverty, one of the lowest rates of child immunization, growing food insecurity, increased needs for mental health services, and one of the highest rates of youth suicide and child fatalities from abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, Colorado’s funding for education has failed to keep up with students’ and districts’ needs because of numerous rescissions since 2009, despite increased workforce expectations in technology and “21st century skills” and demands from “education reform” and accountability laws; and

WHEREAS, In order to make up for the severe shortages in funding, schools have turned to their PTAs and communities to assist in fundraising and school funding support; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Colorado PTA, its regions, councils, and local units affirm their commitment to advocating for every child as their top priority.