

RESOLUTION

(Adopted by the 2000 Convention delegates)

SAFE CHILDREN – SAFE SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, one of the indicators in the Colorado Rules for the Accreditation of Districts and Schools requires a "safe and civil learning environment", and

WHEREAS, research shows that a warm, welcoming, nurturing school environment is critical to a safe school, and

WHEREAS, 2.7 percent of Colorado's children felt too unsafe to go to school in 1998, and

WHEREAS, 34.2 percent of Colorado's children had property stolen or deliberately damaged on school property in 1998, and

WHEREAS, 14.9 percent of Colorado's children were in a physical fight on school property in 1998, and

WHEREAS, 11.4 percent of Colorado's children carried a weapon on school property in 1998, and

WHEREAS, 8.7 percent of Colorado's children were threatened or injured with a weapon on school property in 1998, and

WHEREAS, the school shootings in Pearl, Mississippi (October 1, 1997) 3 killed, 7 injured; West Paducah, Kentucky (December 1, 1997) 3 killed; Jonesboro, Arkansas (March 24, 1998) 5 killed; Edinborough, Pennsylvania (April 24, 1998) 1 killed; Springfield, Oregon (May 21, 1998) 2 killed, 22 injured; and Littleton, Colorado (April 20, 1999) where 15 were killed and 21 were injured, have traumatized a nation and further traumatized the school communities in our State, and

WHEREAS, 41 children in Colorado between the ages of 15 and 19 committed suicide in 1998, and

WHEREAS, emotional problems affect a child's ability to succeed in school, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Colorado PTA, its councils and local units, support programs chosen by the individual schools or school districts that promote feelings of safety, further be it

RESOLVED, that Colorado PTA, its councils and local units, support funding intervention and special programs to help troubled youth, and further be it

RESOLVED, that Colorado PTA, its councils and local units support funding for security updates that support each school's needs.