

## Approved Resolutions – PTA Convention, 2008

Following are the resolutions that were adopted by the voting delegates during the 111<sup>th</sup> Annual PTA Convention. The next steps are not just for National PTA, the next steps are in your hands as PTA members, too.

These resolutions are national in scope, but they have impact at the local, council and state levels of PTA as well. The power of a resolution is to enable PTA members, leaders, and public policy and program teams to join with others to build partnerships, form coalitions, increase awareness, develop programs, and lobby policy makers.

### Next Steps

1. Distribute the National PTA resolutions to your members.
2. Review the resolutions at the local, council or state level to determine if existing resolutions are in conflict with National PTA. These will need to be either rescinded or amended.
3. Research the web or organizations to identify current relevant resources.
4. Contact other organizations, businesses, or agencies to see if there might be new partnerships with which to join forces.
5. Ask if there are already programs within the state providing resources to help a resolution be more successful.
6. Work with other people, or groups, who have a shared interest in the intent of the resolution.
7. Contact your State PTA, or the National PTA for assistance if needed.

Resolutions represent the belief of the organization and can be shared with others outside of the PTA. Joining with others who share the same belief will create a stronger foundation and a greater chance to succeed. Together you can create awareness, implement programs and further advocate on these issues.

### Possible Partners

- State Legislators
- County/City Councils
- School Boards
- Education Associations
- State and/or Community Organizations
- Foundations

As a reminder a resolution is: A formal statement that outlines action by a group of people; it is presented to members by using a motion that is submitted in writing because of its importance, length or complexity; and it is a position that is adopted by a vote of the general membership.

### Resources Available:

- [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org)
- 1-800-307-4PTA (4782)
- [Resolutions@PTA.org](mailto:Resolutions@PTA.org)



### Children Left Unattended In or Around Vehicles

<b>Whereas 1</b>	Whereas, Each year children are left unattended in and around vehicles that can lead to deadly consequences; and
<b>Whereas 2</b>	Whereas, These consequences include the dangers of abduction, heat stroke, strangulation, trunk entrapment, being backed over, and personal injuries to themselves or others by causing accidental and uncontrolled movement of the vehicle; and
<b>Whereas 3</b>	Whereas, Nationally, four children are killed in preventable non-traffic automobile incidents every week; therefore be it
<b>Resolved 1</b>	Resolved, That the National PTA and its constituent organizations advocate for and support legislation that prevents children from being injured or killed in non-traffic automobile accidents, including being left unattended in or around vehicles, and be it further
<b>Resolved 2</b>	Resolved, That the National PTA and its constituent organizations identify and promote educational programs for families, teachers, administrators, and community members on the dangers of children being left unattended in and around vehicles, and be it further
<b>Resolved 3</b>	Resolved, That the National PTA and its constituent organizations partner with national, state, and local child safety organizations to address the issue of non-traffic automobile related incidents involving our children and youth, and be it further
<b>Resolved 4</b>	Resolved, That the National PTA and its constituent organizations support efforts to improve or enhance automobile safety technology that would prevent non-traffic automobile related incidents.

### Substance and Alcohol Abuse Awareness and Prevention

National PTA defines substance abuse as knowingly ingesting, inhaling, or injecting any natural or chemical substance into the human body in an amount determined to be physically or mentally harmful to an individual.)	
<b>Whereas 1</b>	Whereas, Didactic teaching techniques regarding substance and alcohol abuse, their ill effects, and legal ramifications have not yet proven successful in preventing their use; and
<b>Whereas 2</b>	Whereas, Substance and alcohol abuse affects many areas of the brain and can cause adverse behavioral, psychological, and social consequences; and over the counter sale of dangerous substances make them readily available to our youth; and
<b>Whereas 3</b>	Whereas, Substance and alcohol abuse continues to occur among children and youth in our society: people aged 12–20 drink almost 20% of alcohol consumed in the United States and 11.2 % of our youth aged 12–18 are currently using a substance; and
<b>Whereas 4</b>	Whereas, The National PTA does not accept the argument that the social acceptability of alcohol and substance use justifies their use by our children and youth; therefore be it
<b>Resolved 1</b>	Resolved, That the National PTA and its constituent organizations encourage and support educational and prevention programs for students, parents and caregivers regarding the dangers of substance and alcohol abuse, including but not limited to prescription, non-prescription (over the counter), illegal drugs, inhalants, and alcohol. Prevention programs should include a parent or caregivers’ component that reinforces the facts about substance and alcohol abuse and their harmful effects, and be it further
<b>Resolved 2</b>	Resolved, That the National PTA and its constituent organizations work for increased awareness of existing regulations and laws which protect children from these hazards to their health and well being; and be it further

### Children Exposed to Alcohol During Pregnancy

<b>Whereas 1</b>	Whereas, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) is an umbrella term describing the range of effects that can occur in an individual whose mother drank alcohol during pregnancy. These include Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS), Fetal Alcohol Effects (FAE), Partial Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (pFAS), Static Encephalopathy Alcohol Exposed (SEAE), and Alcohol Related Birth Defects (ARBD); and
<b>Whereas 2</b>	Whereas, Over 30 years of research links alcohol use during pregnancy with birth defects in babies, still only 24 percent of obstetrical textbooks published since 1990 teach abstinence during pregnancy; and
<b>Whereas 3</b>	Whereas, The prevalence of FAS is between 0.5 to 2 cases per 1,000 births. It is estimated that for every child born with FAS, three additional children are born who may not have the physical characteristics at birth but still experience neurobehavioral deficits resulting from prenatal alcohol exposure that affect learning and behavior; and
<b>Whereas 4</b>	Whereas, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders can occur in a child whose mother drank alcohol during pregnancy. These may include physical, mental, behavioral, and/or learning disabilities with possible lifelong implications to the child, all of which are preventable; and
<b>Whereas 5</b>	Whereas, Many states have punitive laws that keep women who use alcohol from seeking comprehensive care during pregnancy. Children born to these mothers are at risk for developmental delay and complex medical, social and educational problems; therefore be it
<b>Resolved 1</b>	Resolved, That the National PTA and its constituent organizations promote a campaign raising awareness regarding the dangers and adverse effects of alcohol use during pregnancy and the struggles that pertain to individuals and families faced with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD), and be it further
<b>Resolved 2</b>	Resolved, That the National PTA and its constituent organizations promote educational programs through meetings, bulletins and workshops for parents, students, administrators, teachers and community members on the dangers of alcohol use during pregnancy; and be it further
<b>Resolved 3</b>	Resolved, That the National PTA and its constituent organizations support non-punitive access to comprehensive care for the alcohol-using woman and her infant and to educate the public that addiction is a medical issue, not a moral failure.

### Enforcement of Laws Regarding Alcohol, Drugs, and Driving Under the Influence

<b>Whereas 1</b>	Whereas, PTA's commitment to the health and welfare of children and youth is the basis for its long-time support for alcohol, drug, and other substance abuse education, treatment, and prevention efforts, and
<b>Whereas 2</b>	Whereas, The solution to the problem of alcohol and drug abuse requires a sustained and collaborative effort on the part of law enforcement agencies and other organizations at the federal, state, and local levels, and
<b>Whereas 3</b>	Whereas, The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reports motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of youth deaths, aged 15 to 20 years; therefore be it
<b>Resolved 1</b>	Resolved, That National PTA and its constituent organizations will support law enforcement in their efforts to increase public awareness of, and advocate for the enforcement of local, state and federal ordinances which prohibit the purchase, possession, or consumption of alcohol and other drugs, or drug paraphernalia by underage

	persons ; and be it further
<b>Resolved 2</b>	Resolved, That National PTA and its constituent organizations will support strict enforcement of driving under the influence laws and the passage of more stringent laws that would remove from the road drivers under the influence of alcohol or other drugs; and be it further
<b>Resolved 3</b>	Resolved, That National PTA and its constituent organizations will support Zero Tolerance laws that make it illegal for persons under the age of 21 to purchase or publicly possess alcoholic beverages and that make it illegal for persons under the age of 21 to drive with any measurable amount of alcohol in their blood; and be it further
<b>Resolved 4</b>	Resolved, That National PTA and its constituent organizations will support the age of 21 as the minimum legal drinking age.

### **The Promotion of Alcohol Use Targeted at Youth**

<b>Whereas 1</b>	Whereas, Alcohol is the number one drug problem among youth, and alcohol use is a significant factor in each of the four leading causes of death among those 25 years and younger, and
<b>Whereas 2</b>	Whereas, Underage drinking is associated with academic failure, illicit drug use, tobacco use, risky sexual behavior, higher risk for alcohol dependence, secondhand effects that put others at risk, alcohol poisoning, and alterations in the structure and function of the developing brain, and
<b>Whereas 3</b>	Whereas, Studies show that greater exposure to alcohol advertising contributes to an increase in drinking among underage youth, and
<b>Whereas 4</b>	Whereas, Alcohol advertisements overwhelmingly connect consumption of alcohol with attributes particularly important to youth, such as friendship, prestige, sex appeal and a fulfilling life, and
<b>Whereas 5</b>	Whereas, Alcohol companies target youth primarily through television, magazines, outdoor advertising, Internet sites, and sporting events. The alcohol industry does this to recruit the next generation of drinkers to maintain and expand their profits, and
<b>Whereas 6</b>	Whereas, Television programs, motion pictures, music, video games and toys frequently depict the consumption of alcohol as glamorous and as a suitable means of enabling a person to handle a variety of problems. Entertainment media and products targeted toward underage audiences, or that are likely to be viewed or heard by children, affect a child's expectations and views toward alcohol and its use, therefore be it
<b>Resolved 1</b>	Resolved, That the National PTA and its constituent organizations oppose the advertising of alcoholic beverages directed toward children and youth, and work to eliminate it; and be it further
<b>Resolved 2</b>	Resolved, That the National PTA and its constituent organizations advocate for the elimination of all advertising of alcoholic beverages that associates such beverages with popularity, sexuality, excessive drinking, illegal behavior, social success or as a rite of passage from childhood to adulthood; and be it further
<b>Resolved 3</b>	Resolved, That the National PTA and its constituent organizations advocate for the elimination of portrayals of alcohol use in entertainment media and products and the depiction of alcohol use by those under the age of 21, especially in television programming and motion pictures, when not related to the storyline.

## Prescription and Over the Counter Drug Abuse

<b>Whereas 1</b>	Whereas, According to a study by the Partnership for a Drug Free America today's young people are more likely to abuse prescription and over the counter drugs than illegal drugs, and
<b>Whereas 2</b>	Whereas, Young people think that abusing these drugs to get high is "safer" than abusing illegal drugs; and
<b>Whereas 3</b>	Whereas, A study from the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) shows many people buy drugs online, not to save money, but to bypass the need for a prescription from their doctor; and
<b>Whereas 4</b>	Whereas, Drugs purchased online may not contain the correct ingredients and could contain toxic substances; and
<b>Whereas 5</b>	Whereas, According to a 2004 study conducted by the Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN), emergency room patients, aged 12 to 20, accounted for almost half of all the emergency room visits resulting from nonmedical use of dextromethorphan; therefore, be it
<b>Resolved 1</b>	Resolved, That the National PTA and its constituent organizations encourage and support educational and prevention programs regarding the dangers of misuse and/or abuse of prescription and non-prescription (over the counter) drugs. These programs should include a parent or caregivers' component that reinforces the facts about substance abuse and the harmful effects; and be it further
<b>Resolved 2</b>	Resolved, That the National PTA and its constituent organizations educate parents, students, teachers, administrators and community members on the effects and consequences of prescription drugs taken by a person other than the person for whom the drug is prescribed and the use of non-prescription (over the counter) drugs in a manner or amount not included in the "directions for use" instructions or in conflict with the intended use for that medication, and be it further
<b>Resolved 3</b>	Resolved, That National PTA and its constituent organizations advocate for and support legislation making it unlawful for any person to knowingly sell, cause another to sell, or conspire to sell drugs such as dextromethorphan which may be harmful when consumed for non-medical use to an individual under the age of 18 years including any such sale using the Internet.

**Position Statements to be Rescinded with the Adoption of the Proposed Resolution  
Alcohol and Drugs**

<b>Position Statement</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Adopted</b>	<b>Replacement Resolved</b>
Age For the Purchase of Alcoholic Beverages	PS	1982	3
Alcohol and Drug Abuse	PS	1982	1, 6
Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse	PS	1996	1, 2, 3, 4, 6
Alcohol and Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment	PS	2001	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Alcohol Content on Beer Labels	PS	1986	2
Children Exposed to Illicit Drugs During Pregnancy	PS	1991	1, 6
Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol and Drugs	PS	1988	1, 3, 6
Sale of Wine Through Vending Machines, The	PS	1982	3
Substance Abuse	PS	1970	4
Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment	PS	2002	1, 2
Substance Use and Abuse	PS	1983	1, 2, 3