

## PROTECTION OF AND SUPPORT FOR LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER AND QUEER/QUESTIONING (LGBTQ+) INDIVIDUALS

- Whereas,** All children and youth should be able to attend school in a safe and inclusive environment free from discrimination, and that history has shown that civil rights laws are effective in contributing to such environments; and
- Whereas,** Explicit federal statutory protections currently address discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, but not sexual orientation or gender identity; and
- Whereas,** The lack of awareness and understanding of issues facing LGBTQ children and youth has contributed to a higher rate of isolation, depression, and suicidal ideations or attempts; and
- Whereas,** Education regarding LGBTQ issues increases understanding and cultivates acceptance of and respect for LGBTQ children and youth; and
- Whereas,** Harassment and bullying policies that specifically mention sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression are associated with: students feeling more safe; lower levels of bullying; decreased incidents of harassment related to sexual orientation; increased teacher/staff intervention; and a greater reporting of incidents; now therefore be it
- Resolved,** That National PTA supports civil rights legislation[1], Department of Education guidance[2], and Department of Justice guidance[3] that provides the protection of all children and youth, and that ensures equitable access to education, safe school environments, and affirming health care; and be it further
- Resolved,** That National PTA seek and support legislation that specifically recognizes LGBTQ+ as a protected group and addresses discrimination based upon sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression; and be it further
- Resolved,** That National PTA encourage state, local units, and councils to review school policies specifically focused on the creation of a safe, inclusive, supportive, and accepting environment in schools and support revisions and amendments to those policies that specifically address the topics of sexual orientation and gender identification/ expression as they relate to creating a safe, inclusive, supportive, and accepting school environment free from violence, harassment, intimidation, and bullying; and be it further
- Resolved,** That National PTA and its constituent associations seek and support passage of legislation and implementation of laws and regulations recognizing LGBTQ+ student rights and create a safe, supportive, affirming, and accepting environment in schools, specifically with training and access to age- and developmentally-appropriate resources for educators, other school related professionals, families, and community members to support all students; and be it further

*Resolution: Protection of and Support for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer/Questioning (LGBTQ+) Individuals*

**Resolved,** That National PTA and its constituent associations seek to update health education standards to address issues of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and other LGBTQ+ topics; and be it further

**Resolved,** That National PTA work with the Department of Education to strongly encourage states to incorporate the revised health education standards regarding ageappropriate, medically accurate and culturally sensitive information on LGBTQ+ issues into existing health and other appropriate curricula.