BACKGROUND CHECKS ON TEACHERS

Whereas, Some states have issued licenses to teachers convicted of sexual assault against students; and

Whereas, A National PTA Positions Statement, Support of Public Education (1983) states, "the National PTA believes that educational opportunities for students are dependent on the quality of instructional programs and personnel and supports professional excellence in the training, hiring, and retaining of teachers and administrators"; and

Whereas, The Objects of the PTA read, "To secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth"; and

Whereas, A number of states have passed background checks on teachers laws; therefore be it

Resolved, That the National PTA support background checks on teachers before issuance or renewing of a license or permit by the appropriate agencies; and be it further

Resolved, That the National PTA support background checks on teachers who hold a life license (a license with no expiration date); and be it further

Resolved, That those responsible for issuing or renewing a license or permit be prohibited from doing so until he or she has received the results of the background investigation and there is no child abuse or sexual assault convictions; and be it further

Resolved, That the National PTA encourage the cooperation between Treasury Departments and Teacher Licensing agencies in the investigation of background checks on teachers; and be it further

Resolved, The National PTA encourage each state PTA to review their laws and encourage their legislature to enact a "Background Checks on Teachers" bill that best fits the needs of their state for the protection of their children.

Adopted: by the 1995 Convention Delegates
Reviewed: by the 2000 Convention Resolutions Committee