RESOLUTION

FIREARM SAFETY AND AWARENESS

Whereas, in a statement of PTA Principles, National PTA believes that all children and youth should have an education that develops safe habits and attitudes, and should live in an environment free of avoidable physical hazards; and

Whereas, 1992 statistics indicate that the number of motor vehicle-related deaths in the United States decreased while the number of firearm-related deaths increased, and gunshot wounds were now the leading cause of deaths among teen-age boys in America; and

Whereas, Gun education programs are widely available and heavily promoted; or the American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Injury and Poison Prevention cautions educators to choose educational programs and approaches carefully, avoiding those that might inadvertently encourage or promote children's access to firearms; and

Whereas, In the Lewis Harris Poll for the Harvard School of Public Health (1993) more than one in five (22%) of the students claimed that they carried a weapon to school during the last school year, with 4% saying that the weapon was a handgun; and

Whereas, One of the objectives of Goal #6 of the National PTA's "PTA National Education Goals" states, "By the year 2000, parents, businesses and community organizations will work together to ensure that schools are a safe haven for all children;" therefore be it

Resolved, That the National PTA urge its constituent bodies, and the Department of Defense Education Activity, to participate in firearm safety and awareness programs carefully chosen to avoid those that might inadvertently encourage or promote children's access to firearms; and be it further

Resolved, That the National PTA encourage its constituent bodies, and the Department of Defense Education Activity to educate parents, children, youth and communities about the importance of firearm safety and awareness; and be it further

Resolved, That the National PTA urge its constituent bodies, and the Department of Defense Education Activity to promote public education campaigns to alert parents and community members about the harm and injury which handgun violence is inflicting on children and youth; and be it further

Resolved, That the National PTA encourage its constituent bodies, and the Department of Defense Education Activity to collaborate with other community organizations having similar interests in countering the epidemic of firearm injuries and death occurring among children and youth.

Adopted: by the 1996 Convention Delegates
Resolution: Firearm Safety and Awareness

Adopted: by the 1996 Convention Delegates

Reviewed: by the 1999 Convention Resolutions Committee