

PRESCRIPTION AND OVER THE COUNTER DRUG ABUSE

- 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
- Whereas, Young people think that abusing these drugs to get high is "safer" than abusing illegal drugs; and
- 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
- Whereas, Drugs purchased online may not contain the correct ingredients and could contain toxic substances; and
- 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
- 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
- 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
- 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.
- Adopted: by the 2008 Convention of Delegates