National PTA’s Hill Asks for 2022 focus on the health and safety of every child and are categorized in four areas outlined below. National PTA is urging Congress to address each of these critical issues by:

**Enacting Sensible Community Safety & Youth Violence Prevention Measures**
1. Invest in evidence-based community violence intervention strategies;
2. Require a waiting period and a comprehensive background check for all individuals prior to purchasing a firearm;
3. Fund research on gun violence prevention and encourages reporting on school crime and safety;
4. Prevent discrimination and harmful disciplinary practices in schools; and
5. Encourage gun safety education and the safe storage of firearms.

**Addressing the Current Youth Mental Health Crisis**
1. Ensure all students have access to mental health resources at school and in their community, including targeted support for underserved populations and children experiencing trauma;
2. Encourage schools to adopt practices that establish safe, supportive and inclusive learning environments for all students;
3. Promote social and emotional learning, including resources for families to support this critical practice at home;
4. Extend the pipeline of school-based mental health professionals and allows for schools to be reimbursed for services through Medicaid; and
5. Provide support services for whole families impacted by addiction.

**Reauthorizing the Child Nutrition Act**
1. Ensure school meals are healthy and nutritious for growing children and teens, consistent with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans;
2. Enable schools to successfully transition after the pandemic back to following the evidenced-based meal patterns through higher reimbursement rates, administrative flexibilities and technical assistance around production, procurement and preparation; and
3. Encourage schools to adopt student wellness policies with the input of families and provide adequate time for kids to eat and play.

Questions? Please contact National PTA’s Director of Government Affairs Kate Clabaugh (kclabaugh@pta.org)