

CLOSED CAPTIONED TV

Adopted by Convention Delegates May 3, 1978

Reviewed and deemed relevant April 2018

- WHEREAS, The National PTA supports equal opportunities for exceptional children, and there are 14 million deaf and hard of hearing adults and children who are deprived of the opportunity to hear and understand the information and to enjoy the entertainment provided by television; and
- WHEREAS, Technology is available to transmit captioned TV in a way that is invisible to the general public, and anyone who so desired could purchase low cost decoders for the purpose of receiving the captioned messages; and
- WHEREAS, The Department of Health, Education and Welfare is currently pursuing this capability by assisting the television industry in obtaining necessary equipment; and
- WHEREAS, The captioning of a television program is an expensive and technologically complex process; and
- WHEREAS, The potential of captioning has not been completely explored in areas where it might be used educationally to increase or stimulate reading skills for children with learning disabilities; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA take an active role in support of closed captioned TV service by alerting and informing all its members of this critical need of our hearing impaired population and of the potential advantages of such a service as a learning tool for other exceptional children; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA encourage districts, councils, and units to urge all local television stations to move ahead in this area; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA recommend to the National PTA that support be given to the establishment of federally funded regional captioning centers so that programs may be sent to such centers to be captioned; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA submit this resolution to the National PTA as an item that requires a national commitment during their annual convention in June, 1978.

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BACKGROUND SUMMARY

The Public Broadcasting System (PBS) has the capability of making TV useful to the 14 million deaf and hard of hearing people in the United States. This technique, known as “closed captioning,” can be transmitted on the TV screen, allowing the deaf to see dialogue and yet would be invisible to the general viewing public.

Special decoders can be plugged into a regular TV set allowing the dialogue to be visible on the set. Once these decoders are on the market, new sets might be purchased with the capability of “closed captioning” built in.

The potential for captioned TV has not been fully explored. According to HEW, captioned TV might be of benefit to other children with learning disabilities or bilingual problems, as well as in increasing reading skills.