

CONTROL OF LOOK-ALIKE STIMULANTS AND DEPRESSANT DRUGS

Adopted by Convention Delegates May 6, 1982

Reviewed by Board of Managers April 2015

- WHEREAS,** The National Congress of Parents and Teachers, concerned with the health and welfare of children and youth, adopted a resolution on the Control of Stimulants and Depressant Drugs in 1965; and
- WHEREAS,** Look-alike controlled substances are pills and tablets carefully designed to resemble or duplicate the appearance of brand-name controlled substances, but containing no controlled substances or combination thereof, and are known on the street by the same name as their dangerous drug counterparts; and
- WHEREAS,** While trafficking in look-alike controlled substances is not prohibited by the Federal Controlled Substances Act, the Drug Enforcement Administration still considers that such distribution and sales encourage and contribute to drug abuse and drug profiteering; and
- WHEREAS,** The distribution of look-alike controlled substances and non-prescription drugs have been extensively advertised, claiming the products to be both safe and legal, there have been numerous deaths nationwide attributed to overdoses of these stimulants, in addition to strokes and other side effects; and
- WHEREAS,** Due to the easy availability of look-alike controlled substances and nonprescription drugs, the nation's communities have been inundated with countless numbers of pills; local police agencies, hospital emergency rooms and medical examiners report widespread abuse, especially among teenagers and college-age students; and
- WHEREAS,** Manufacturers and distributors are now relabeling their pills and capsules simply as stimulants although they still contain the potentially dangerous and excessive combinations; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA urge appropriate state agencies to study and determine the regulations needed to control the manufacture, distribution, sale, mail order and advertisement of these look-alike controlled substances and to research the entire dimension of the problem; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA develop informational programs designed to educate lawmakers and the public regarding the need for control and the potentially serious dimensions of the dangers in the use of look-alike stimulant and depressant drugs; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA seek measures to prohibit the manufacturing and merchandising of the look-alike controlled substances; and be it further

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RESOLVED, That the California State PTA urge its units, councils and districts to encourage enforcement of existing regulations that protect children and youth from the potential hazards to their health and well-being from stimulant and depressant drugs and look-alike controlled substances.

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BACKGROUND SUMMARY

More than a dozen states have enacted or are considering legislation targeted against the manufacture and distribution of look-alike controlled substances. Cities and counties have passed or are considering local ordinances prohibiting store-front look-alike controlled substances sales.

Over-the-counter stimulants and depressant drugs contain uncontrolled substances such as caffeine, phenylpropanolamine (an amphetamine commonly used in diet pills), decongestants and ephedrine sulfate (a vascular constrictor). The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration states that the number of mail-order and store-front wholesale distributors grew from a mere handful to more than 150 outlets by November 1981, and the production of look-alike controlled substances soared to 30 million dosage units PER WEEK.