

## FIREWORKS: HAZARDS TO YOUTH

Adopted by Convention Delegates May 1990  
Reviewed by Board of Managers January 2010

- WHEREAS, One of the Objects of PTA is “To promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school and place of worship;” and
- WHEREAS, The *Statement of PTA Principles* clearly states, “We believe that all children and youth should have an education that develops safe habits and attitudes, and should live in an environment free from avoidable physical hazards”: and
- WHEREAS, The safety of all children must be PTA’s highest priority; and
- WHEREAS, Each year, children and adults are severely burned, suffer permanent loss of eyesight, limbs and loss of life due to the use or misuse of fireworks;
- WHEREAS, The American Academy of Pediatrics has taken a leadership role in attempting to ban private use of fireworks throughout the United States; and
- WHEREAS, Several communities and organizations throughout the State of California have recognized the destruction of property at a cost, yearly, of millions of dollars due to the personal use and/or misuse of fireworks, and have enacted legislation to prohibit the sale of fireworks for personal use; and
- WHEREAS, Each year valuable homes and natural resources are destroyed by the personal use of fireworks; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA urge its units, councils and districts to stop selling and/or sponsoring the sale of fireworks for personal use; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA educate its units, councils and districts to the hazards and destruction caused by the personal use of fireworks; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA, its units, councils and districts urge their local community governing bodies to enact ordinances prohibiting the sale and use of fireworks for personal use; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA submit this resolution to National PTA for consideration at the June 1990 National PTA Convention.

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## BACKGROUND SUMMARY

Many national, state and community organizations have already recognized the danger and damage that personal use of fireworks causes to people, property and national resources. The American

Academy of Pediatricians has called for a total ban on the private use of fireworks. The organization has called on its members to promote this ban by speaking out through the media in an effort to influence the public as well as policy makers at local, state and national levels.

The United States Consumer Product Safety Commission has recognized for some years that fireworks—despite their patriotic associations—present a very serious safety hazard, particularly for children. Deaths, blindings, amputations and severe burns all too often have been the result of the misuse of fireworks.

A seven-year survey of hospitals in California (1982-1988) conducted by the U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission indicates that, in those cities and counties where personal use of fireworks has been banned, a definite reduction in property damage and personal injuries is evident.