

## LGBTQ+ INCLUSIVENESS IN HEALTH EDUCATION CALIFORNIA

Adopted by Convention Delegates May 2015

- WHEREAS, Comprehensive health education, including sexual health education, is a foundational building block for emotional and physical well-being; and
- WHEREAS, The lack of awareness and understanding of LGBTQ+ issues and individuals has contributed to a higher rate of isolation, depression, and suicidal tendencies in the LGBTQ+ community; and
- WHEREAS, Education regarding LGBTQ+ issues increases understanding and cultivates acceptance of, and respect for, LGBTQ+ individuals; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA work with the Department of Education to adopt clearly stated standards regarding age-appropriate, medically accurate information on LGBTQ+ issues into the existing health curriculum; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That units, councils and districts urge local education agencies to provide LGBTQ+ inclusive age-appropriate, medically accurate curricular materials and campus resources; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA seek and support legislation that creates a safe and accepting environment in schools, specifically with updated health education standards that deal with issues of sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA submit this resolution to the National PTA for consideration at the June 2016 National PTA Convention.

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### BACKGROUND SUMMARY

We, the California State PTA, advocate to positively impact the lives of *all* children, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. Numerous studies, spanning decades of research, have pointed to the fact that LGBTQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning, and all other gender and sexual minorities) youth are more likely to be the products of bullying and harassment, such that they are more prone to miss valuable class instruction, engage in self-destructive activities, and suffer from depression and suicidal ideation. Studies also show that education on the spectra of sexual orientation and gender identity and expression has a positive correlation with increased understanding and acceptance of all individuals. As stakeholders in the success and wellbeing of all of California's children, we, the California State PTA, have a fundamental need to address the issue of LGBTQ+ student inclusion in the educational process.