

SUPPORT FOR QUALITY CHILD CARE

Adopted by Convention Delegates May 1986

Reviewed by Board of Managers April 2010

- WHEREAS,** PTA believes quality child care for all children should be available as needed; and
- WHEREAS,** Existing child care programs may not meet the needs of all families; and
- WHEREAS,** The changing demographics and demands of society now require that both the public and private sectors be responsible for providing quality child care programs; and
- WHEREAS,** The mission of the PTAs/PTSAs in California is to represent children and youth by identifying their needs; advocating those needs to schools, agencies and organizations that affect those children and youth; and be seeking to effect the action necessary to meet those needs; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA and its units, councils and districts be involved in their jurisdictions in defining what constitutes “quality” child care; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA and its units, councils and districts encourage the development of alternatives for quality child care in both the public and private sectors; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA support legislation which enacts incentives for employers to sponsor and/or provide child care programs.

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BACKGROUND SUMMARY

Quality child care is the major social issue of the 1980's. In today's society there are many changing trends which greatly affect the family unit and its ability to provide child care: the change in the labor force, the rate of divorce and separations, out-of-wedlock births and mobile life styles. While some progress has been made toward providing quality child care in selected areas, society has not acknowledged the magnitude of the problem:

- The number of single parent families increased 94% during the last decade.
- In 1979, approximately one in every nine women in the work force was either a divorced, separated, widowed or never-married woman maintaining her own family.

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- In 1982, over 50% of the children in the United States had a mother in the labor force. By 1990, the figure may reach almost 75%.
- By 1990, approximately 45% of U.S. workers will be parents of children under 18 years of age. One in 10 will be single parents. Two-thirds of two-parent families will have both parents working.
- By 1990, almost 60% of American women will be employed. Almost 80% will become pregnant some time during their working years.
- More than 41% of all mothers taking leave are back at work before their children reach one year of age.

Each of these changes means that more and more children need to be cared for by someone other than their parents for some portion of the day. Child care needs are exploding, but the quality child care services to meet those needs aren't always available when and where parents need them or at a price they can afford.

There is obviously an escalating need for quality child care programs and the employer can provide them. This is being done in a small way, but the numbers show that needs are not being met.