WHEREAS, There is a growing awareness and concern for children who are, and have been, sexually abused, and

WHEREAS, A climate of acceptance and encouragement of sexual freedom involving children is being more frequently expressed in easily accessible media, with the effect of directly and indirectly stimulating such exploitive activity; and

WHEREAS, Many children who suffer from sexual abuse need specialized treatment due to the trauma of incest, pornography and exploitation; and

WHEREAS, Many children who are abused, sexually or otherwise, tend to become child abusers themselves; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the California State PTA urge the establishment of centers for the treatment of sexually abused children and their families and adults; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the California State PTA support adequate state funding of in-service training for school personnel to enable them to recognize and deal with the trauma of the sexually abused child; and be it further

RESOLVED, That “school personnel dealing” be clarified to mean reporting child abuse incidents to medically supervised centers; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the California State PTA, its units, councils and districts encourage and participate in the development of child sexual abuse preventive programs; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the California State PTA, its units, councils and districts cooperate in the development of community awareness programs dealing with the effects of sexual abuse of children; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the California State PTA forward this resolution to the National PTA for consideration at its convention in June 1978.

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Continued on next page
BACKGROUND SUMMARY

It is estimated that there are 100,000 sexually abused children in the United States today - not counting adults who have been sexually abused when they were children. PTA recognizes that its main commitment is to children and youth; however, PTA believes this is a concern in which the adult must be included.

Communities are becoming aware of the urgent need for the establishment of centers specializing in the treatment of the sexually abused person - such as the pilot program in San Jose, California. It has been found that when centers are established to deal with the problem of sexual abuse, the number of walk-in patients and referrals increases.

Because school personnel may be the first professional people to come in contact with the sexually abused child, a program of in-service training for school personnel would help them to recognize and deal confidently with the young victim.