

## TREATMENT CENTERS FOR THE SEXUALLY ABUSED

Adopted by Convention Delegates May 3, 1978

*Reviewed by Board of Managers November 2020*

- 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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## **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.