

VIOLENCE IN THE HOME

Adopted by Convention Delegates October 13, 1977

Reviewed and deemed relevant November 2017

- WHEREAS,** PTA believes that the home is the basic unit in the structure of our society; and
- WHEREAS,** There is now an increasing national awareness of the problem of violence in the home; and
- WHEREAS,** Children subjected to domestic violence, though not physically assaulted, may suffer deep and lasting emotional effects and are more likely to continue the cycle of abuse from one generation to the next; and
- WHEREAS,** PTA has a responsibility to encourage programs in the schools that include parent education and preparation for parenthood; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That units, councils and districts encourage school district governing boards to include preparation for parenthood as a required part of the school curriculum; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That preparation for parenthood education be expanded to include adults through parent education classes, PTA programs and such other methods as will broaden its availability; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That units, councils and districts identify the needs within the community, seek to secure necessary services and inform their membership of appropriate resources that provide information and assistance to families involved in domestic violence; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That California State PTA support legislation which will provide for necessary services for families involved in domestic violence.

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BACKGROUND SUMMARY

Parent education is a continuing concern of the California State PTA. PTA believes that educational programs in the schools which are directed toward preparation for family living are effective in reducing social ills. At a time in our state when the family structure seems to be deteriorating and domestic violence is considered to be the single most unreported crime in the state, it is imperative that Family Life Education, including preparation for parenthood, be part of the curriculum.

The physical abuse of one or more of the family members in domestic violence constitutes both a physical and mental violation of that person's rights.

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Violence in the Home - continued

Children are often the victims, directly or indirectly. Children from these homes, unless they receive help, often grow up expecting violence either to speak for them or to victimize them. In 1976 in the County of Los Angeles alone, it is estimated that there were from 345,000 to 460,000 cases of mental, physical and sexual abuse and neglect of children.

Violence in the home is becoming a matter of public concern. There is a present and growing need to develop innovative plans and services which will assist families involved in domestic violence.