

BAN ON MILITARY ASSAULT-TYPE WEAPONS

Adopted by Convention Delegates May 6, 1989

Reviewed and deemed relevant November 2017

- WHEREAS, The third Object of the PTA is “to secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth;” and
- WHEREAS, National PTA Health and Welfare Policy #3 states: “To provide regulation of manufacture, advertising or sales of products hazardous to children and youth;” and
- WHEREAS, The California State PTA has, as part of its Legislation Platform, “The support of legislation to prevent, control or eliminate hazards to the health and well-being of all children and youth;” and
- WHEREAS, In recent years there has been a proliferation of violent incidents involving military assault-type weapons resulting in death and maiming of children; and
- WHEREAS, The availability to the public of lethal military assault-type weapons has created a danger to school children and communities as evidenced by incidents occurring over the last 10 years; and
- WHEREAS, In California, potential owners need prove only that they are at least 18 years of age, show a driver’s license (or Department of Motor Vehicles identity card) for identification and hand over as little as \$400.00 for an AK-47 with one thousand (1,000) rounds of ammunition; and
- WHEREAS, Recent incidents have shown that current laws regarding the possession by the public of military assault-type weapons are ineffective in protecting the public safety; and
- WHEREAS, Some local jurisdictions, since the attack on the Stockton school children in January 1989, have enacted ordinances regarding the sale and possession of military assault-type weapons, and since such ordinances are subject to pre-emption by state law; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA seek and support legislation to ban, for non-military/non-law enforcement purposes, the manufacture, importation, possession, sale or resale of military assault-type weapons, and require registration procedures for those persons who now legally own such weapons; and be it further

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RESOLVED, That the California State PTA seek and support legislation to ban for non-military/non-law enforcement purposes, the manufacture, importation, possession, sale or resale of accessories and ammunition designed for military assault-type weapons; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the California State PTA urge its units, councils and districts to participate in public awareness campaigns regarding the importance of such legislation, and actively engage in supporting such legislation for the protection and safety of the public, especially children and youth; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the California State PTA submit this resolution to the National PTA for consideration at the 1989 National PTA Convention in Atlanta, Georgia.

* Includes automatic and semi-automatic weapons.

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BACKGROUND SUMMARY

Since 1979 there have been at least 10 incidents of shootings and/or hostage takings at schools. At least five of these, including the assault on the children at Cleveland Elementary School in Stockton on January 17, 1989, have involved military assault-type weapons. Los Angeles Police Chief Darryl Gates has stated: "We have been too tolerant. There is no need for citizens to have highly sophisticated military assault rifles designed for the sole purpose of killing people on the battlefield."

Military assault-type weapons are easily purchased and economically priced, beginning at \$325.00. Uzis and other military assault-type weapons are readily accessible for purchase from gun shop shelves and are a favorite weapon of urban gangs and drug dealers.

There is no reasonable way to protect our children – or anyone – from an individual using a military assault-type weapon with the intent to kill. Society cannot control an individual's intent. Society **CAN control the ACCESS to such weapons.**

It is tragic that it takes the death of innocent children to generate wide-spread concern. It is time for PTA to say enough...no more lives will be sacrificed. A ban on military assault-type weapons is long overdue...and, unfortunately, for some it is too late.