

## CLIMATE CHANGE IS A CHILDREN'S ISSUE

Adopted by Convention Delegates May 2015

- WHEREAS, There is broad scientific consensus that Earth's climate is warming at a unusual pace compared to natural changes in climate experienced in the past; and
- WHEREAS, There is broad scientific consensus among climate scientists that human activities, contributing to greenhouse gases, are the dominant cause in climate warming; and
- WHEREAS, Children represent a particularly vulnerable group already suffering disproportionately from both direct and indirect adverse health effects of climate change; and
- WHEREAS, The greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere will accumulate over the coming decades and will profoundly impact today's children as adults and future generations; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA urge its units, councils and districts to educate parents on the impact of climate change on children's health and future welfare; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA, its units, councils and districts, urge school districts to educate students on climate and energy literacy and human sustainability; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA, its units, councils and districts urge school districts to support programs and strategies to make schools more climate-safe and energy efficient models to prepare children for climate changes already underway; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA, its unit, councils and districts urge school districts to serve as role models for practices that promote energy conservation, alternative energy sources, reducing dependency on automobile travel and encouraging sustainable practices; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA consider climate change a children's issue and urge its units, councils and districts to advocate for comprehensive local, state and national legislation to substantially reduce man-made contributions to climate change and to mitigate its impact on children's health; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA submit this resolution to the National PTA for consideration by the delegates at its convention.

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## **BACKGROUND SUMMARY**

According to thousands of peer-reviewed studies, the Earth's temperature is warming and the dominant reason is due to human activities. In California, climate change will cause more frequent and intense forest fires, more air pollution and deadly heat waves, a significant reduction in the snowpack and state water supplies, sea level rise and erosion along California's long coastline.

Today's children are already being impacted by climate change. Because of their physical, physiological, and cognitive vulnerability, children are more susceptible to adverse health effects from environmental hazards. As impacts of climate change worsen in the coming years, anticipated direct health consequences of climate change will include injury and death from extreme weather events and natural disasters, increases in climate-sensitive infectious diseases, increases in air pollution-related illness, and more heat-related, potentially fatal, illness. By rallying to protect and prepare our children today, we help the nation, the planet and future generations.