



**Proposed  
Resolutions  
2013**

**Embracing the  
Advocate Within**

## Breakdown of Resolutions for 2013 Convention:

- 3** *New Resolutions*
- 14** *Retentions*
- 5** *Updates*
- 1** *Rescission*

**Retentions** are adopted resolutions that are up for renewal without any revision. Delegates can reaffirm or reject in their current form but may not amend them.

**Updates** are adopted resolutions which are being revised to maintain accuracy or relevance. Delegates will vote to reaffirm or reject but may also amend *the revised wording* of the update.

**Rescissions** are resolutions that can be retired because their resolves have been enacted. Once rescinded, a resolution becomes part of NYS PTA's historical record.

**New** resolutions are ones that have not been previously presented.

## **RETENTION #1**

### **DEFINITION AND IDENTIFICATION OF GIFTED AND TALENTED – 2006 (R-'99, R-'92, R-'85)**

**RESOLVED** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. urge the New York SED to ask for increased funding to provide more stringent enforcement to ensure that both a district's gifted and talented students be identified to the full extent of the definition and appropriate programs be provided to address the three areas of gifted and talented as defined by the New York State Education Department, and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the school district be required to notify the parents or guardians of a student identified as gifted or talented regardless of whether or not the district has a program of gifted and talented education to meet their needs, and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the NYS PTA urge its units and councils to encourage their local school districts to comply with the New York State Education Department regulations.

**STATEMENT:** While aspects of gifted and talented fall under the Special Education umbrella, neither mandates nor funding have been specified for gifted and talented programs. Advocacy needs to continue to support the development of uniformed policies, remove obstacles and ensure adequate funding.

## **RETENTION #2**

### **IMPLEMENTING ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATIONAL AND LEGISLATIVE ACTION – 2006 (R-'99, U-'92)**

**RESOLVED** the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. seek and support legislation on the national, state, and local levels which encourages conservation of resources and use of more environmentally sound, renewable energy sources, and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the New York State PTA urge the New York State Education Department to develop environmental outcomes so that each student will acquire knowledge of the ecological consequences of choices in the use of the environment and natural resources, and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the New York State PTA urge local school districts to use school facilities as environmental living, learning laboratories to promote understanding of interdependency and how human activities relate to our ecosystems, and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the New York State PTA encourage the SED to accept collegiate level Environmental Science Courses for teachers seeking general science certification.

**STATEMENT:** Our future depends on teaching students, youth, and the community to use the earth's resources in a sustainable way. Environmental education should be part of every student's course of study. Green initiative programs, which allow students to practice environmental stewardship through authentic, hands-on experiences and activities, will bring environmental awareness into their everyday lives.

## **RETENTION #3**

### **JUVENILE OFFENDERS – PREVENTION, INTERVENTION AND FOLLOW-UP – 2006 (R-'99)**

**RESOLVED** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. seek and support legislation to increase funding for prevention and intervention programs for high-risk youth, i.e. mentoring

programs, after-school activities, substance abuse counseling, etc., and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the New York State PTA seek and support legislation to increase the programs for juveniles accused of serious offenses, i.e. mental health, sex offense and substance abuse treatment programs, and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the New York State PTA seek and support legislation to create aftercare programs for juvenile offenders once they return to their neighborhoods and communities.

**STATEMENT:** PTA supports the education, health, safety and welfare of all youth. Programs aimed at preventing delinquency and rehabilitating juvenile offenders will help high-risk youth as well as their communities to achieve mutually beneficial results.

#### **RETENTION #4**

##### **TRANSFERRING OF RECORDS – 2006 (R-'99, R-'92)**

**RESOLVED** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. urge the NY SED to inform school personnel across the state of the concern for the lack of expeditious transfer of school records; and strongly encourage the NY SED to develop appropriate policies and guidelines that insure the timely transfer of records, and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the New York State PTA encourage its units and councils to alert and educate parents and members as to this proposed policy and its compliance within their own districts.

**STATEMENT:** School records are not always transferred in a timely manner and often not available for student placement; therefore transfer of records must be expeditious. New York State PTA members should inform their school community about the issue of compliance with this policy.

#### **RETENTION #5**

##### **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE – 2006 (R-'99, R-'92)**

**RESOLVED** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. support legislation for public and private agencies within communities to establish or maintain temporary, alternate housing and shelters for victims of domestic violence, and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the New York State PTA urge that psychological and counseling services be made available for all family members in disrupted households in such a way that the safety of the victims is not jeopardized, and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the New York State PTA continue to promote and support legislation that would ensure sufficient funding for services to victims of domestic violence in NYS.

**STATEMENT:** New York State has demonstrated a commitment to protecting families from the many negative impacts of exposure to domestic violence. The impact of domestic violence can be complex, long term, widespread, and sometimes fatal to those involved. We need to advocate for coordinated, timely, and effective support for families experiencing domestic violence.

## **RETENTION #6**

### **CHALLENGES TO TEXTBOOK AND EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL REVIEW – 2006 (R-'99, R-'92, R-'85)**

**RESOLVED** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. encourage its units/councils to work with their respective school districts to implement the procedures for selection of textbooks and educational materials, and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the New York State PTA urge all units/councils to work specifically to support adherence to the provision requiring that no challenged material be removed pending a decision arrived at through due process by an approved review committee.

**STATEMENT:** School districts should implement procedures for the selection of textbooks and educational materials in schools and adhere to the provision that no challenged materials be removed without review by an approved committee that includes parents. This resolution is in keeping with NYS PTA Position Paper “Guidelines For Selection Of Textbooks And Educational Materials”, and reaffirmed in 2013.

## **RETENTION #7**

### **CHILD SAFETY SEATING – 1999 (U-'92)**

**RESOLVED** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. urge the appropriate agencies/organizations to provide assistance in obtaining federally approved child safety seats for families who are unable to afford them.

**RESOLVED** that the New York State PTA encourage enforcement of all existing statutes and regulations on the use of child safety seats.

**STATEMENT:** The State of New York Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee has established a Child Passenger Safety (CPS) grant. According to [www.safeny.ny.gov](http://www.safeny.ny.gov), the grants support child passenger safety activities including: fitting stations, training and education programs, child passenger safety check events and car seat distribution programs for low income families. The income eligibility requirements for child safety seat distributions programs is usually people who meets the New York State WIC Income Eligibility Guidelines or who qualifies under public assistance programs. Nevertheless, agencies are not required to apply for the funds, nor is there a requirement for New York State to continue to provide the funds. The New York State Child Restraint Law effective November 24, 2009, indicates that all children must be restrained in an appropriate child restraint system while riding in a motor vehicle, until they reach their 8th birthday. An appropriate child restraint system is one that meets the child's size and weight recommended by the manufacturer. The safety belt in your vehicle is not designed for children. A booster seat raises your child up so that the safety belt fits your child correctly and provides better protection.” <http://www.safeny.ny.gov/sesa-ndx.htm>

## **RETENTION #8**

### **COMPREHENSIVE NYS TOBACCO CONTROL & PREVENTION PROGRAM – 2006 (U-'99)**

**RESOLVED** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers seek and support sustainable funding at the recommended CDC levels for the New York State Department of Health Tobacco Control Program, and be it further

**RESOLVED** that NYS PTA urge that the essential components of the New York State Department of Health Tobacco Control Program be maintained and enhanced.

**STATEMENT:** There is continued need to support sustainable funding at the recommended CDC levels for the New York State Tobacco Control Program. The CDC recommends New York State invest 254.3 million dollars annually into a tobacco control program, which is less than 10% of what New York State collects as revenues from tobacco taxes and Master Settlement programs. Since 2009, state budget has slashed funding to tobacco control in half. The current goals of the NYS Tobacco Control Program are to reduce the prevalence of adult cigarette use to 12% and adolescent use to 10% by 2013. The American Lung Association has given NYS an “F” in smoking cessation and smoking prevention programs.

#### **RETENTION #9**

#### **PARENTS ON SHARED DECISION MAKING COMMITTEES – 2006 (U-'99, R-'92)**

**RESOLVED** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers recommend that the New York State Education Department provide to all unit and council presidents and region PTA leaders a copy of Regulation 100.11 as adopted by the Board of Regents, and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the NYS PTA urge the training of participants in the process of shared decisionmaking and the showcasing of school districts that have school-based planning teams with parents as active participants, and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the NYS PTA recommend that units, councils, and regions sponsor training for parents on the process of shared decision-making, group dynamics, interpersonal skills, listening skills, and so forth, and be it further

**RESOLVED** that local PTA units and councils advocate that in the planning for these school-based planning teams that training of all team members be included as part of any policy adopted by the school district, and be it further

**RESOLVED** that local PTA units and councils urge that school districts train the team together and that parents are included in that training.

**STATEMENT:** The New York State Education Department regulation recognizes the essential role parents have in shared decision-making and school-based planning teams. Promoting active participation on these teams should be a priority for units. Well trained parent members increase the effectiveness of the teams.

#### **RETENTION #10**

#### **STRENGTHENING THE KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM – 2006 (U-'99, R-'92, R-'85)**

**RESOLVED** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. encourage its units and councils to urge school districts to strengthen the kindergarten program with full day and developmentally appropriate programs taught by highly qualified teachers, and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the New York State PTA encourage the New York State Education Department to disseminate information by which school districts with full day kindergartens may evaluate their program, and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the New York State PTA encourage the New York State Education Department to engage in research to determine the effectiveness of full day kindergarten programs, and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the New York State PTA advocate for full funding for full day kindergarten programs, staffing, and facilities.

**STATEMENT:** Although the Governor has recently supported state funding for pre-school programs in high needs schools, there is still no mandate for full day kindergarten programs in NYS.

#### **RETENTION #11**

##### **BICYCLE HELMET LAW – 2006 (U-'99, R-'92, U-'89)**

**RESOLVED** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. seek and support legislation that would require all persons who operate or are passengers on bicycles to wear bicycle helmets, and that existing law prohibiting passengers under 1 year of age remain the same.

**STATEMENT:** The current bicycle helmet law requires persons less than 14 years old wear certified bicycle helmets when riding bicycles. Since 1992, New York State PTA has advocated that all persons riding bicycles wear certified helmets.

#### **RETENTION #12**

##### **CHARTER BUS SAFETY – 2006 (U-'99, R-'92)**

**RESOLVED** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. seek and support legislation that requires the Department of Motor Vehicles to retain all bus drivers' accident and moving violation records over a ten year period of time, and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the New York State PTA seek and support legislation to increase civil penalties against bus companies for non-compliance with intra- and inter-state motor carrier laws, and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the New York State PTA seek and support legislation that requires seat belts on charter buses, and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the New York State PTA seek and support legislation that would require the superintendent of schools to obtain the charter bus company's records to approve the services of charter bus drivers and approve only drivers who meet the additional requirement of school bus driver certification, including fingerprinting and background checks, and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the law requires the superintendent of schools to obtain a bus driver's inter-and intrastate accident and moving violation records before allowing them to drive buses transporting children, and be it further

**RESOLVED** that PTA units, council, and regions urge local school districts to obtain bus drivers' inter- and intra- state accident and moving violation records before allowing them to drive buses transporting children.

**STATEMENT:** Transportation for some school activities is subcontracted to charter bus companies. The school district, specifically the superintendent, must ensure that charter bus drivers and equipment used meet the same standards as those of each school district's bus services.

### **RETENTION #13**

#### **TRAINING OF SCHOOL EMPLOYEES IN THE CARE OF A CHOKING VICTIM – 2006**

**RESOLVED** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. supports regulation or legislation that would require, at minimum, one school employee trained in the care of the choking victim to be present at each food service period, in each lunch room, and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the New York State PTA advocate for funding to be provided to school districts for the training of school employees in the care of the choking victim.

**STATEMENT:** There is currently no legislation for the training of school employees nor maintaining a trained cafeteria worker in the care of a choking victim.

### **RETENTION #14**

#### **HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH – 2006**

**RESOLVED** that New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. and its units, councils, and regions shall disseminate information and educate parents, students and the community on the importance of full access to education for homeless children and youth, including emancipated youth.

**STATEMENT:** Homelessness continues to be a major concern. It is imperative that all children and youth are provided a free and appropriate education, including services comparable to those available to other students. Families and parents need to be aware of the McKinney-Vento Act and its mandates.

### **UPDATE # 1**

#### **FUNDING FOR EDUCATION MANDATES – 2006 (R-'99, R-'92, R-'85)**

**RESOLVED** that the New State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. encourage funding by the State Legislature new **and existing** educational mandates.

**STATEMENT:** State-driven education mandates are typically well-founded and in the best interest of students but are usually unfunded. School districts today are experiencing unprecedented fiscal restraints and often struggle to fund such mandates, both new and existing. The current retention calls for funding of new mandates only.

KEY: WORDS IN **BOLD AND UNDERLINED** = ADDITIONS  
WORDS IN *ITALICS AND UNDERLINED* = ADDITIONS

**UPDATE: 2**

**SUICIDE PREVENTION – 2006 (R-'99, R-'92, R-'85)**

**RESOLVED** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. support legislation that provides funding for suicide prevention and intervention programs for students in grades K-12, and be it further

**RESOLVED** that school districts be encouraged to provide in-service training **for teachers and support staff**, on the problem of *(remove: teenage)* **youth** suicide, and be it further

**RESOLVED** the New York State PTA encourage its units and councils to offer programs to educate parents about *(remove: teenage)* **youth** suicide, and be it further

*(Remove:*

*RESOLVED that the New York State PTA support legislation that provides funding for 24 hour suicide hot lines to cover all areas of the state, and be it further)*

**RESOLVED** that the New York State PTA support the development of services for survivors of suicide attempt(s) and for families who have lost someone to suicide.

**STATEMENT:** This resolution has been updated to reflect there is now a 24-hour 7-day National Suicide Prevention Lifeline that the New York State Office of Mental Health lists as its statewide hotline. Suicide is the third leading cause of death for youth between the ages of 10 – 24. Therefore, the need for suicide prevention, intervention and support services continues.

**UPDATE #3**

**(REMOVE: CHILDREN) FIREARMS ACCIDENT PREVENTION LAW – 2006 (R-'99, U-'92)**

**RESOLVED** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. *(remove: urge the NYS Legislature to seek and)* support legislation making parents and/or owners responsible for negligently stored firearms and ammunition.

**RESOLVED** **the New York State PTA encourage its units and councils to offer programs to educate the parents and/or owners about their legal responsibility for negligently stored firearms and ammunition.**

**STATEMENT:** This position has been updated to reflect the passage of New York Safe Act, which includes verbiage of safe gun storage and protecting children from firearms.

**UPDATE #4**

**(REMOVE: CYBER) INTERNET SAFETY – 2006**

**RESOLVED** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. will work to inform and educate

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parents, students, educators, school staff and communities on the dangers associated with internet, wireless and other electronic communication, and be it further

**RESOLVED** that New York State PTA units, councils and regions will work to heighten parents' technologic awareness and skills and encourage the use of *(remove: cyber)* **internet** safety strategies to ensure the safety of children and youth, and to encourage responsible and ethical use of internet resources, and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the New York State PTA shall work with collaborating partners and others to advocate for the protection of children and youth in a cyber world, and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the New York State PTA, its units, councils and regions shall work to ensure that appropriate laws, policies, and regulations are in place to protect children and youth when using the internet, wireless and other electronic communications, and be it further

*(Remove:*

*RESOLVED that this resolution be forwarded to National PTA for consideration at their next convention)*

**STATEMENT:** The 5<sup>th</sup> resolve is removed and the resolution is being updated because National PTA adopted this position in 2007. As children and youths internet and wireless options increase, potential dangers like cyber bullying and identity theft grow at an exponential rate. All community members must be made aware of the dangers and of strategies to protect children. Many parents need training and experience in using computers to be prepared for the challenges of mentoring their children in safe use of the internet and wireless communication. The Dignity for All Students Act seeks to provide students, parents and community members resources to support internet safety.

#### **UPDATE #5**

#### **INFECTION CONTROL AND UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS FOR VOLUNTEERS – 2005 (R-'98, R-'91)**

**RESOLVED** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. urge the State Education Department to require school districts to *(remove: train)* **develop and implement** *(remove: all school volunteers and school personnel in)* **infection control and universal precautions policies for all volunteers** *(remove: techniques)* to ensure the safety and health of all students and adults in the school setting, and be it further

*(Remove:*

*RESOLVED that this infection control technique training follow the Centers for Disease Control recommendations, that it be conducted by a qualified professional, be comprehensive, and include a demonstration of procedures as well as an opportunity for hands on experience, and be it further)*

**RESOLVED** that the New York State PTA encourage its units and councils to participate in infection control **and universal precautions inconjunction with the school district** *(remove: training)* for those members volunteering in the school *(remove: until such time as the school district provides the training).*

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**STATEMENT:** The second resolve is removed in light of the fact that all employers in NYS must provide training to all of their employees related to practices of infection control and decreasing risk of blood borne pathogen exposure. This information can be found under the Public Employees Safety and Health Act (PESH). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention does not have recommendations for training volunteers in school settings. In order to protect all volunteers, schools and PTAs must work together to provide the most current information to prevent the spread of air and blood borne infections.

## **RESCISSION**

### **SCHOOL BUS SAFETY – 2006 (R-'99, R-'92)**

**RESOLVED** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. seek and support legislation which would make the School Bus Driver Safety program a part of the Education Law.

**STATEMENT:** The New York State Comprehensive School Bus Driver Safety Training program is now a part of education law. New York Education Law part 5, 3650 – 3650-C Comprehensive School Bus Driver Safety Training Program includes: the establishment of a State comprehensive school bus driver safety training council whose role is to advise and assist the commissioner in the development and updating of the school bus driver safety training program, a training program for school bus drivers transporting students to and from school by school bus including the latest safety techniques, the establish of training and safety technique requirements and the establishment of an electronic accident report data base.

## **NEW RESOLUTION #1**

### **FOOD ANIMAL PRODUCTION AND ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE**

**WHEREAS** leading health experts & scientific organizations concur that using antibiotics in animal agriculture leads to antibiotic resistant infections in humans, and

**WHEREAS** the human diseases most strongly linked to agriculture overuse of antibiotics include food poisoning (caused by resistant Salmonella & Campylobacter) and other resistant human infections including resistant E-coli & resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), and

**WHEREAS** antibiotic resistance has become a global public health crisis, and

**WHEREAS** there are known alternative strategies to the use of antibiotics in food animal production, and

**WHEREAS** there are 453 organizations nationwide such as the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Society, the Infectious Disease Society of America & the American Public Health Association, that support the Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act (HR965/S1211) which would address this problem, therefore be it

**RESOLVED** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. urge Congress & the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to act to protect human health by prohibiting the overuse & misuse of antibiotics in food animal production, and be it further

- RESOLVED** that the NYS PTA seek and support legislation to improve labeling of meat & poultry products at federal and state levels to adequately and accurately identify antibiotic use during food production, and be it further
- RESOLVED** that the NYS PTA seek and support legislation requiring public disclosure on the amount, type and purpose of antibiotic use during food animal production, and be it further
- RESOLVED** that the NYS PTA support initiatives that would encourage local school districts to purchase meat & poultry products sourced from animals receiving antibiotics only for treatment of disease, and be it further
- RESOLVED** that the NYS PTA encourage PTA units & councils to educate parents, school district staff and Boards of Education about antibiotic overuse and misuse in food animal production and its contribution to antibiotic-resistant infections in adults and children, and be it further
- RESOLVED** that this resolution be forwarded to National PTA for consideration at their convention.

**STATEMENT:** Antibiotic use in food producing animals is a major concern. Antibiotics are used prophylactically to prevent disease during over-crowding and to promote the growth of cattle, poultry and swine without veterinary oversight. Government agencies testified before congress that a definite link exists between routine and non-therapeutic antibiotic use on livestock and the crisis of human antibiotic resistance. There has been an increased resistance to antibiotics as well as increase in prevalence of Salmonella, Campylobacter, E-Coli and MRSA. Approximately 2 million people acquire bacterial infections yearly and approximately 90 thousand deaths occur, costing \$16.6-26 billion in additional health costs. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and World Health Organization (WHO) sited antimicrobial resistance as one of the top 5 public health threats.

What is needed is an overall reduction or elimination of prophylactic antibiotic use. Some of the alternative strategies includes: better hygiene facilities, more room for the animals for disease prevention, use of antibiotics only when the animals are ill and by prescription only. Denmark has eliminated antimicrobials for animal growth, which resulted in significant reduction of antibiotic resistance in humans and an increase in livestock production. According to the National Academy of Sciences estimated cost of meat consumption would increase \$9.72 per consumer per year.

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## **NEW RESOLUTION #2**

### **REVISING NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION CHILD SAFETY ZONE POINT SYSTEM**

**WHEREAS** Education Law, 3635-b defines a child safety zone as a “designated area within which children who reside at a lesser distance from school than the minimum eligibility distance may be provided bus transportation on the basis that their most direct walking route to school will traverse a hazardous zone.”

- WHEREAS** the designation of a child safety zone is determined according to a points system that assigns a greater number of points to greater potential hazards, and
- WHEREAS** there is no current New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) jurisdiction for points given towards a Child Safety Zone greater than a four lane road, and
- WHEREAS** there are students in New York State that must walk across highways of more than four lanes to get to school, and
- WHEREAS** pedestrians crossing multilane highways are at greater risks of injury from passing traffic, and
- WHEREAS** national studies that multiple lane highways with higher speed limits reduces reaction time, making it more difficult for vehicles to stop, and
- WHEREAS** Boards of Education do not have authorization to provide bus transportation outside of the eligibility distance, accept within Child Safety Zones, therefore be it
- RESOLVED** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. urge the New York State Department of Transportation (NYS DOT) to amend the guidelines for child safety zones to allow greater points to be given to roads with more than four lanes, and be it further
- RESOLVED** that the NYS PTA urge its units and councils to educate schools, parents and children on the dangers of crossing multilane highways.

**STATEMENT:** Studies have shown that the more lanes a highway contains and the higher the speed limit, the more dangerous a road becomes to pedestrians. The New York State Department of Transportation guidelines entitled “Transportation in a Child Safety Zone, Section 3635-b of the Education Law” must be amended to provide additional points in the assessment to roads over four lanes that students must walk across to get to school. The change in the guidelines can provide boards of education in school districts the flexibility to make transportation available in Child Safety Zones in areas that do not meet the criteria under the current assessment system.

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**NEW RESOLUTION #3**  
**SOCIAL HOST LAW**

- WHEREAS** the minimum legal drinking age is 21 years as established by the Federal Uniform Drinking Age Act of 1984, yet nearly a quarter of high school students in New York State have engaged in binge drinking, and
- WHEREAS** the average age at which youth begin drinking is 14, they are more likely to consume larger amounts of alcohol in one sitting than adults, alcohol is typically consumed in the home with or

without adult supervision, and the costs of addressing problems caused by underage drinking are significant, and

**WHEREAS** the underage use of alcohol is linked with memory and learning deficits, along with impaired decision making capabilities, risky sex, emergency room visits, and academic deficits such as a decrease in academic achievement, not graduating from college and not attending college, and

**WHEREAS** holding adults criminally accountable for providing alcohol to minors through a statewide Social Host law is a strategy that limits adolescent access, and

**WHEREAS** in New York State the Social Host Liability Law allows only for civil liability in cases where adults provide alcohol to minors, and injury or death occurs as a result, therefore be it

**RESOLVED** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. encourage and support legislation to adopt a statewide social host criminal law that would prohibit adults from providing alcohol or allowing the consumption of alcohol in homes or on noncommercial property by youth under the age of 21 who are not their children, and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the New York State PTA, its units, councils, and regions provide information to students, parents, and community members regarding the detrimental effects and significant dangers of underage drinking and adults providing alcohol to minors.

**STATEMENT:** Social host laws prohibit adults from providing alcohol or allowing the consumption of alcohol in homes by youth under the age of 21 who are not their children. By enacting social host laws adults are deterred from allowing this behavior to occur and thereby reduce underage access to alcohol. Through statewide support of Social Host Laws, the parents and community will be further educated about the importance of this issue and the need for more stringent restrictions limiting underage access to alcohol.

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