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CONTACT: Carol Kocivar
Vice President - Communications
(916) 440-1985

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PTA Announces Support for Proposition 3, Opposition to Proposition 6

California State PTA, with nearly one-million volunteer members statewide, has voted to **support** Proposition 3, the Children's Hospital Bond Act and **oppose** Proposition 6, the Police and Law Enforcement Funding Initiative, on the November ballot.

The PTA advocates to secure adequate laws for the care and protection of all children and youth. The association only takes positions on bills and initiatives that address issues on which its members have demonstrated broad-based support or opposition through the PTA resolutions process.

PROPOSITION 3 - Support

This measure authorizes \$980 million in bonds for children's hospitals, 80 percent of which must go to centers serving children with illnesses such as cancer, heart defects and diabetes. Proposition 3 is a grant program, prioritizing spending on those programs that serve the uninsured, improve children's health and promote pediatric teaching and research.

"California State PTA believes caring for very ill children and researching life-threatening illnesses is an urgent need. Children's hospitals serve children with conditions only a limited number of sites have the level of care and expertise to treat. Funding from this bond act will serve the state's children who are the most sick and most in need, while serving all children with research and information on best practices," said Pam Brady, President.

PTA has a history of supporting laws and policies that improve the health of children and families. "We also understand the importance of good health to a child's ability to succeed in school," Brady said.

PROPOSITION 6 - Oppose

This measure makes approximately 30 revisions to California criminal law, particularly to gang-related offenses, creating multiple new crimes and additional penalties, some with the potential for new life sentences. Proposition 6 would expand the circumstances under which juveniles aged 14 would be eligible for trial in an adult criminal court, rather than the juvenile court system, for certain gang-related offenses.

"PTA lobbied hard to create the juvenile justice system, and we strongly support delinquency prevention, rehabilitation and education for young offenders," Brady said. "But we believe Proposition 6 undermines important protections for juveniles. We are also deeply concerned about the nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's estimate of the costs associated with Proposition 6, including \$500 million dollars annually for increased funding of criminal justice programs and prison and parole costs, and one-time capital costs of potentially another \$500 million dollars for prison facilities. Since Proposition 6 does not identify a revenue source, these funds would come from the General Fund, which could impact other statewide programs for children and youth, including schools and health care.

The PTA is the nation's oldest, largest and highest profile volunteer organization working on behalf of public schools, children and families, with the motto "Every child, one voice." PTA volunteers work in their schools and communities to improve the education, health and welfare of all children and youth. The PTA also advocates at national, state and local levels for education and family issues. The PTA is non-profit, non-sectarian and non-commercial.

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