

2010 Proposed Resolution A: Computer Workstation Health

- 1 WHEREAS, The health and well being of children and youth are among the primary concerns of the PTA, and the PTA works with public schools and districts to ensure that all children and youth have access to appropriate and safe classroom resources; and
- 2 WHEREAS, The majority of school-age children use computers on a regular and ever-increasing basis, as early as preschool and continuing into adulthood; and
- 3 WHEREAS, Many public school students sit in classrooms and computer labs with improperly aligned posture and there is little or no understanding of the importance of workstation ergonomics in our schools; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Research shows that children and youth are experiencing significant musculoskeletal discomfort associated with computer use; and
- 5 WHEREAS, Incorrect ergonomics and improper posture at computer workstations are contributing to health problems and repetitive stress injuries in the United States; and
- 6 WHEREAS, Research shows that repetitive stress injuries are developed over a number of years, and therefore students' postural habits during school years will affect their health as young adults; and
- 7 WHEREAS, Ergonomic intervention and education have been shown to reduce discomfort caused by frequent computer use; now therefore be it
- 1 RESOLVED, That the California State PTA urges its units, councils, and districts to work with their school districts to develop and implement specific training curricula that introduces workstation ergonomics and proper computer-use posture to all students; and be it further
- 2 RESOLVED, That the California State PTA urges its units, councils, and districts to recommend to their school districts that all computer workstations in schools be ergonomically correct and adjustable to fit the needs of students and teachers of all sizes.

Originating Body: Carmel Valley Middle School PTSA

<u>Action by PTA Organizations</u> (a support position means a PTA body approved sending the resolution forward to convention delegates)	<u>Position</u>
North Coastal Council of PTAs	Support
Ninth District PTA	Support
California State PTA Board of Managers	Support

Background Summary 2010 Proposed Resolution A: Computer Workstation Health

The lack of attention to correct body posture while using computers has become a serious health hazard that is costing people, businesses and government billions of dollars each year. Tens of thousands of people each year are diagnosed with repetitive stress injuries. In fact, it is the No. 1 work related health problem in the United States according to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). But what was once considered an adult diagnosis is now occurring as early as the teenage years. Students are using computers starting as early as the preschool years and consistently by the time they are in kindergarten. There is a strong correlation between this increased computer use and poor posture at the computer with early onset of repetitive stress injuries in our students.

Students and a majority of teachers are unaware of correct body posture and positioning when seated at the computer. Computer stations in schools are frequently arranged such that desks, chairs and computer monitors remain at the same stationary height while students come in a wide variety of sizes. In order to prevent widespread health problems in students as they grow older, we need to make the importance of correct posture and proper ergonomic workstation set-up and proper posture habits while working at a computer a standard part of computer education. Promotion and practice of proper workstation health within the structured school environment will influence young people to practice proper sitting posture during both school and non-school hours.

2010 Proposed Resolution B: Child Trafficking in California

- 1 WHEREAS, California law defines human trafficking as “all acts involved in the recruitment, abduction, transport, harboring, transfer, sale or receipt of persons, within national or across international borders, through force, coercion, fraud or deception, to place persons in situations of slavery or slavery like conditions, forced labor or services, such as forced prostitution or sexual services, domestic servitude, bonded sweatshop labor, or other debt bondage”; and
- 2 WHEREAS, California is a ripe location for traffickers because of its international border, harbors, airports, powerful economy, increasing population, and large immigrant population; and
- 3 WHEREAS, Individuals can learn signs to identify a victim of child trafficking and how to respond quickly; and
- 4 WHEREAS, The California State PTA believes that all children deserve to live and work in safety and dignity; now therefore be it
- 1 RESOLVED, That California State PTA urges its units, councils, and districts to promote programs that increase awareness of the prevalence of child trafficking in California, and be it further
- 2 RESOLVED, That the California State PTA urges its units, councils, and districts to educate parents, guardians, and others responsible for the welfare of children and youth about child trafficking and ways to identify, prevent, and stop child trafficking, and be it further
- 3 RESOLVED, That the California State PTA and its constituent organizations encourage the California State Legislature to create a “Child Trafficking Awareness Day.”

Originating Body: Vista Elementary PTA

Action by PTA Organizations

(a support position means a PTA body approved sending the resolution forward to convention delegates)

Simi Valley PTA-PTSA Council

Twelfth District PTA

California State PTA Board of Managers

Position

Support

Support

Support

Background Summary 2010 Proposed Resolution B: Child Trafficking in California

National PTA adopted a child trafficking resolution in June 2009 which indicates that “at least 200,000 or more children may be victims of domestic trafficking within the United States.”

Child trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery. Trafficking is defined as all acts involved in the transport, harboring, or sale of persons within national or across international borders. Children may be forced, coerced, kidnapped, deceived, or by fraudulent means be subjected to sexual exploitation in prostitution or the sex entertainment industry or forced to do labor in domestic servitude, restaurant work, janitorial work, sweatshop factory work and migrant agricultural work. It is a violation of the human body, mind and spirit. The trafficker has stolen the child’s freedom and dignity and uses a variety of ways to instill fear in the child to keep the child enslaved. Some children are kept under lock and key, while others are isolated from the public, family members and/or their ethnic group, and threatened with violence toward themselves or their family. The trafficker may shame the child by threatening to expose their circumstances to their family or take control over the victim’s money.

“There is a special evil in the abuse and exploitation of the most innocent and vulnerable. The victims see little of life before they see the very worst of life, an underground of brutality and lonely fear. Those who create these victims and profit from their suffering must be severely punished. Those who patronize this industry debase themselves and deepen the misery of others.” - Former President George W. Bush, in an address to the U.N. General Assembly, September 23, 2003.

Child trafficking occurs right here in our state of California as a destination and a source for this crime. It is on the rise with the money that can be made because of it and/or because a person’s economic status has deteriorated.

We each have a place in the fight against modern-day slavery. If our government, businesses, civil society, and individuals work together in our communities and at the national and international levels, we can change children’s lives forever. California State PTA needs to encourage research to uncover the secret atrocities, protect and care for the children who have been trafficked, and raise awareness in the broader community to prevent and expose child trafficking.