

Arizona is one of 15 states that still allows corporal punishment in public schools. While most districts prohibit the use of corporal punishment, there is no state law abolishing this antiquated form of discipline structure in our schools. It is the recommendation of the Legislative Committee that this resolution continue as part of the Arizona PTA Legislative Platform.

Corporal Punishment

Adopted by the Convention Body June 1992

Reaffirmed by the Convention Body May 3, 1997

Reaffirmed by the Convention Body June 2002

Reaffirmed by the Convention Body June 2007

Reaffirmed by the Convention Body June 2012

WHEREAS: There is large and growing body of evidence which indicates that corporal punishment a) provides a model for children which leads to further violence and b) interferes with the process of learning, and c) is detrimental to the emotional and educational needs of the children and that discipline should be on understanding, compassion, the building of self-esteem and competence, and the modeling of positive means of resolving conflicts; and

WHEREAS: Children are helpless and vulnerable to the physical punishment inflicted by adults and two million or more cases of children being hurt by their teachers are reported annually; and

WHEREAS: There is a growing opposition to the use of corporal punishment because effective discipline alternatives are readily available; and

WHEREAS: Children are full citizens of our nation, entitled to due process and to basic assurances of safety and fairness and must be given the same, if not more protection against assaults as adults;

Therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the Arizona PTA opposes the use of corporal punishment in schools and all other institutions, public and private, where children are cared for, and educated; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Arizona PTA supports legislation to outlaw corporal punishment of children in such institutions; and be it further

RESOLVED: That Arizona PTA, its individual members, local units, councils and the association as a body, work actively toward the passage of such legislation; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Arizona PTA and its constituent organizations will continue to work with other organizations in demanding corporal punishment be abolished.