

## **Resolution to Encourage Local PTA Advocacy to Reduce Gun Violence**

**Whereas**, National PTA has a rich history of advocating for the safety and well-being of our children, and has been a leading voice supporting public policy that serves to protect children from gun violence.

**Whereas**, National PTA has affirmed that gun violence must decrease to make our schools and communities safer and supports specific recommendations to restrict access to firearms, including:

- Mandatory license to purchase a firearm.
- Mandatory three-day waiting period and background check to purchase a firearm, regardless of retail venue.
- Prohibition on the sale of more than one handgun per month to any individual.
- Reenactment and expansion of federal ban on the sale and possession of military-style assault weapons.
- Federal ban on non-sporting ammunition.
- Mandatory restrictions on Internet firearms sales, including restrictions on materials used to make/modify guns.
- Federal minimum age requirement of 21 years of age for all firearm purchases.
- Increased penalties for the transfer of firearms, including handguns and assault weapons, to juveniles for use in a crime.
- Establish comprehensive community mental health facilities to provide preventative and treatment services to children and adults.

**Whereas**, on December 14, 2012, at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, twenty children and six adults were gunned down with an assault weapon. In response to this most recent attack on children and teachers in our schools, the National PTA reaffirmed that school and child safety is one of our core tenets, and that the protection of children in all school settings is a fundamental right and is the utmost priority for the PTA's work and advocacy.

**Whereas**, MCCPTA has a network of 189 local organizations and over 50,000 parents, teachers, and members of our community who support the mission of the PTA.

**Whereas**, a key element to MCCPTA's mission is to support and speak on behalf of children and youth in our schools, in our community, and before governmental agencies and other organizations that make decisions affecting children.

**Resolved**, that MCCPTA affirms its support for National PTA policies intended to reduce gun violence and protect children in our schools, and recognizes that the tragic shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School must serve as a call to action.

**Be it Further Resolved**, that MCCPTA will work with clusters, local PTAs, and the Maryland State PTA, to encourage and coordinate advocacy for state and federal legislative initiatives that are consistent with National PTA's positions on gun violence prevention and comprehensive mental health services.