



www.capta.org

Convention Release

April 30, 2011

## California State PTA convention delegates adopt resolutions to improve health and education

Resolutions supporting Public Access Defibrillator (PAD) programs and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education were adopted by delegates at the 112<sup>th</sup> Annual California State PTA Convention in Long Beach today, April 30, 2011.

Resolution A was adopted as submitted. Resolution B's second "Resolved" was amended. The final version is subject to editing. See the June issue of *PTA in California* and the 2011 service mailing for the text of the resolutions in their entirety.

Resolutions are crucial to PTA actions. During the past four years alone, resolutions have been cited more than 75 times as the authority for the association to support at least 63 legislative bills.

### Resolution A: Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Awareness

**1 RESOLVED**, That California State PTA urges its units, councils, and districts to encourage local schools and school districts to support the acquisition of AEDs for the school campus; and be it further

**2 RESOLVED**, That the California State PTA urges its units, councils, and districts to encourage local schools and school districts to implement Public Access Defibrillator Programs that include maintenance, testing and designated site staff training requirements; and be it further

**3 RESOLVED**, That the California State PTA urges its units, councils and districts to encourage local schools and school districts to collaborate with organizations and foundations to assist with the purchase of AEDs and the implementation of Public Access Defibrillator Programs that include training, testing and records management.

#### Background

Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) is an electrical malfunction of the heart. Usually the first sign is collapse. Brain damage begins within four to six minutes. The only effective treatment for SCA is defibrillation. An automated external defibrillator (AED) is a simple, small, portable device approved by the FDA for use by laypersons. The AED restores the victim's heart to a normal rhythm.

Public Access Defibrillation (PAD) Programs place AEDs in visible, accessible, public locations. SCA can happen to anyone at any time, with no warning. It is estimated that one in every 500 children have an undetected heart condition, and often the first sign is SCA. Time is critical. In most cases the question of life or death is determined before professional help arrives. PTAs throughout California can protect the safety and well-being of children by raising awareness about AEDs in schools and by urging school districts to implement PAD programs.

## **Resolution B: Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education**

**This resolution was adopted with an amendment -**

**1 RESOLVED**, That the California State PTA, its units, councils and districts work with policymakers, business and educators to support efforts to improve STEM education, enabling more students to acquire skills for access to higher education and employment in the 21st century workforce; and be it further

**2 RESOLVED (as amended)**, That the California State PTA, its units, councils and districts support efforts to identify and eliminate barriers to access to and participation in quality STEM education so that every child, without regard to disability, gender, ethnicity or socioeconomic status, can succeed, and no subgroup is under represented in our state's and nation's STEM workforce, and be it further

**3 RESOLVED**, That the California State PTA, its units, councils and districts support legislation for recruitment, innovative training, and professional development for STEM educators; and be it further

**4 RESOLVED**, That the California State PTA, its units, councils and districts encourage the integration of science, technology, engineering and mathematics into everyday activities; and be it further

**5 RESOLVED**, That the California State PTA, its units, councils and districts increase awareness of opportunities available to students educated in STEM careers; and be it further

**6 RESOLVED**, That the California State PTA submit this resolution to the National PTA for consideration at the National PTA convention.

### **Background**

Science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) employment opportunities are predicted to grow faster than the average of all other jobs, but the number of U.S. college graduates prepared for STEM careers will not meet the demand. This shortfall is aggravated by two factors: U.S. students, on average, are scoring below many developed nations in scientific knowledge and literacy; and women and certain minorities are underrepresented in STEM education. The California Task Force on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Education has created a framework for policy and support of California's schools to enhance California's competitiveness in the global economy. Further, in 2010, the National Science Board identified major areas of need: policies that support rigorous STEM preparation for teachers; the nurture of STEM potential in all demographics of students, especially in economically disadvantaged urban and rural areas; and a supportive culture of parents, educators and students that celebrates innovative thinking and academic excellence.