

# Resolution on Safe Storage of Firearms

- Whereas,** Firearms are the leading cause of death for American children and teens
- Whereas,** Every year in the United States thousands more children and teens are injured by guns
- Whereas,** It is estimated that approximately half of gun owners don't store all of their guns securely, and every year, hundreds of children in the US gain access to firearms and unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else
- Whereas,** Over 80% of child firearm suicides involved a gun obtained from their own home or that of a friend or relative
- Whereas,** Research indicates that in an estimated 73-80% of incidents of gun violence on school grounds, the armed person obtained the gun(s) from their home or the homes of relatives or friends
- Whereas,** Evidence strongly suggests that limiting access to firearms by children limits the risk of injury and death. Therefore be it
- Resolved,** That Michigan PTA urges its constituent organizations to raise awareness that secure gun storage—storing guns locked, unloaded and separate from ammunition—can prevent theft and access by children, unauthorized users, and anyone who may pose a danger to themselves or others, and that secure gun storage can save children's lives; be it further
- Resolved,** That Michigan PTA encourages its constituent organizations to collaborate with other community organizations that have similar interests and recognize that secure storage is an adult responsibility and is essential to preventing unauthorized, unsupervised access to firearms by children; be it further
- Resolved,** That Michigan PTA supports legislation that encourages and incentivizes adults to store their firearms safely, as well as legislation that penalizes those who do not, in coordination with programs and information as described above.

Adopted by the 104<sup>th</sup> Michigan PTA Convention July 23, 2022