

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

Michigan PTA Resolution: 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.

Rationale for resolution

More than one-third of homes in the United States contain at least one gun. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) concludes that the absence of guns from homes is the most reliable and effective measure to prevent suicide, homicide, and unintentional firearm-related injuries to children and adolescents. But if there are guns in the homes, safe storage is a vital component in reducing the risk of unintentional shootings and gun suicides. It is the responsibility of gun owners to safely store their firearms- unloaded, locked, with ammunition stored in a separate place - to prevent access by children or other people who are at risk of harming themselves or others.