

## COLLECTION OF CHILD SUPPORT

- WHEREAS, Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers is committed to the care and protection of children and youth and the principles that all children should have the opportunity to pursue happiness and enjoy the best health possible and should be afforded the opportunity to achieve their highest potential; and
- WHEREAS, Children and youth living in poverty are at immense risk as they grow and develop, facing, in comparison to other children, great vulnerability to the prospects of hunger, nutritional deficiencies, homelessness, illness, physical and mental disabilities, violence and death; and
- WHEREAS, Children living in poverty face higher chances of dropping out of school than children of middle- and upper-income families and have lower test scores, more learning disabilities and greater special education needs, causing them to be undereducated and at higher odds of living in chronic poverty; and
- WHEREAS, KIDS COUNT in Missouri Data Book, a project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, shows that 35.9 percent of Missouri students were enrolled in the free or reduced-price lunch program, a proxy measure of child poverty, and that 18 percent of Missouri's 1.4 million children and youth with seven percent living in extreme poverty (income below 50 % of poverty level); and
- WHEREAS, Living in a single parent home is one of three factors putting children at greatest risks of being poor, with the poverty in single parent families often stemming from failure of an ex-spouse to provide adequate, regular and timely child support, or, in cases of out-of-wedlock births, refusal of the father to acknowledge paternity and/or provide financial support; now, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers support stringent enforcement of existing legislation for collection of child support; and be it further
- RESOLVED, That Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers support creating alliances and agreements with other states for more adequate, effective and expedient collection of child support from non payors who live in states other than Missouri; and be it further
- RESOLVED, That Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers support parentage legislation that would assist mothers and/or custodial parent or legal guardian in establishing paternal responsibility via DNA technology and that would provide mothers and/or custodial parent or legal guardian with readily available legal remedy for assessment and collection of child support.

Adopted 2001