

CHILDREN UNATTENDED IN VEHICLES

- WHEREAS, Missouri PTA is greatly concerned about the health and safety of Missouri's children and youth; and
- WHEREAS, Each year countless numbers of children are left unattended in vehicles placing them at risk and in danger of abduction, heat stroke and other heat disorders, trunk entrapment and personal injuries or even death to themselves or others by causing accidental and uncontrolled movement of the vehicle; and
- WHEREAS, A strong contributing factor to the number of children being left unattended in vehicles is the lack of knowledge related to the risks and dangers of such; and
- WHEREAS, The problem of children being left unattended in vehicles involves not only parents but older siblings, grandparents and other relatives, babysitters, friends and generally anyone who operates a vehicle carrying a child; and
- WHEREAS, Only a few of the 300 major municipalities in the state of Missouri have ordinances addressing the problem of children left unattended in vehicles; and
- WHEREAS, The state of Missouri passed legislation in 2000, codified as Section 568.052 RSMo, making it a crime to leave a child ten years of age or less unattended, that is, not accompanied by an individual fourteen years of age or older, in a motor vehicle when said vehicle injures or kills another person by causing a motor vehicle collision; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED, That the Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers, its units and councils, educate parents and the public in general about the risks and dangers involved in leaving a child unattended in a vehicle by disseminating information about those risks and dangers through flyers, PTA programs, PTA newsletters, Health and Safety events and articles in and articles to the local media; and be it further
- RESOLVED, That the Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers, its units and councils, be encouraged to create placards or posters warning of the risks and dangers of leaving children unattended in vehicles and advising against the same for display in schools, businesses and other locations of public gathering; and be it further
- RESOLVED, That the Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers, its units and councils, support legislation making it a crime to leave children unattended in a motor vehicle punishable by a range of penalties to include fines and/or community service, or in extreme cases, incarceration.

Adopted 2001