THIRD PARTY CHILD ABUSE REPORTING  
IN MISSOURI SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, In Missouri, one of every four children experiences abuse of some kind, including neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional or verbal abuse, medical neglect and educational neglect; and

WHEREAS, The Missouri Division of Family Services offers protection by law from civil liability to any individual who reports child abuse or suspected child abuse to them, unless that person filed a false report, acted in bad faith, or acted with ill intent; and

WHEREAS, Under current Missouri law when suspected abuse of a student by a school employee is reported to a school administrator by a third party, the third party reporter may be held civilly liable for actions of the school administration toward that employee; and

WHEREAS, Under current Missouri law, a third party who observes a school employee abusing a student or suspects a school employee of abusing a student during school hours or school-sponsored activities may choose not to report such behavior to school administrators out of fear of serious legal and financial consequences; and

WHEREAS, If a school employee’s actual or suspected abuse of a student(s) is not reported to school administration, the abuse may continue or escalate; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers, its units and councils, support legislation that gives immunity from civil liability for any action taken by school authorities as a result of a third party making a report to a school administrator of child abuse by a school employee, unless that person filed a false report, acted in bad faith, or acted with ill intent; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers, its units and councils, collaborate with school districts to: promote awareness of child abuse; create usable and efficient abuse reporting procedures and policies; make such procedures and policies known and available within their districts; and protect and support a third party who notifies school administration of a school employee’s abuse or suspected abuse of a student during school hours or school-sponsored activities.

Adopted 2007