

PURCHASE OF FIREWORKS BY CHILDREN

- WHEREAS, The safety and welfare of children and youth are prime concerns of the Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers; and
- WHEREAS, Each year 8,000-10,000 people are treated in hospital emergency rooms for fireworks-related injuries and 50% of those treated are under the age of 15; and
- WHEREAS, The Consumer Product Safety Commission recommends that young children not be allowed to play with fireworks under any circumstances because they are not capable of fully comprehending the danger involved with the handling of fireworks; and
- WHEREAS, The Missouri state law mandates that no persons under the age of 14 may purchase fireworks unless accompanied by an adult and this law is not enforced in many areas of the state; and
- WHEREAS, The Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers believe it is the responsibility of parents and/or guardians as well as the owners and operators of fireworks stands to prohibit the purchase or use of fireworks by children under the age of 14; and
- WHEREAS, Many, parents, teachers and students are unaware of the existing Missouri statutes prohibiting the purchase of fireworks by persons under the age of 14; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That the Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers, its units and councils urge local and state agencies to enforce this law; and be it further,
- RESOLVED, That the Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers, its units and councils encourage local and state agencies to strengthen this law by prosecuting violators who sell fireworks to children under the age of 14 unless accompanied by an adult; and be it further
- RESOLVED, That the Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers, its units and councils support and encourage the distribution of information on the Missouri legal statutes prohibiting the purchase of fireworks by persons under the age of 14 to parents, teachers and students.