

## **SCHOOL ABSENTEEISM**

- WHEREAS, The National Congress of Parents and Teachers has recognized and been concerned that elementary and secondary schools across the nation are facing an alarming problem in increasing school absenteeism and conducted a study of causes and scope of school absenteeism; and
- WHEREAS, National studies have shown that two and one-half million enrolled students are absent each day and an additional two million are not enrolled in school; and
- WHEREAS, A recent study indicates that more than one million students are suspended each year further contributing to this problem; and
- WHEREAS, For the past three years school principals have pointed to absenteeism as their most perplexing problem and find that their school districts are losing millions of dollars in state aid which is generally distributed on the basis of average daily attendance and that millions of children are losing out on their education, and
- WHEREAS, It is also recognized that the reduction of absenteeism in the schools can only be done on a local level through home-school cooperation; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That the Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers urges its units and councils to combat absenteeism by dealing with the problem on the local level and informing the parents of how they can support state school attendance statutes, and, be it further
- RESOLVED, That the Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers urges its units and councils to explore alternative methods of improving attendance other than expulsion or suspension with their boards of education.