

SCHOOL VIOLENCE AND VANDALISM

- WHEREAS, Violence and vandalism are threatening the very existence of our schools in America today, and surveys have shown that no group or area is immune and that it is costing taxpayers more than one-half billion dollars a year, money which has been designated for educational programs; and
- WHEREAS, Federal Bureau of Investigation reports show the largest jump, statistically in criminal acts since national figures have been compiled and that nearly a third of these crimes were committed by teenagers; and
- WHEREAS, The United States Senate Juvenile Delinquency Subcommittee reported an 85.3 percent increase in assaults on students and a 77.4 percent increase in assaults on teachers between 1970 and 1973 and that this violence is increasing; and
- WHEREAS, The National Congress of Parents and Teachers has established school violence and vandalism as a priority legislative item, and the Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers recognizes that the present attempts to stop these trends are inadequate and that more drastic measures are called for; and
- WHEREAS, Missouri Public Law 537.845 limits parental financial responsibility to \$300 for any act of vandalism committed by their child; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That units and councils work with school districts and law enforcement and community agencies to educate the public to the need for close parent-child relationships to overcome the problems of violence and vandalism; and, be it further
- RESOLVED, That the Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers, its units, councils, and members reaffirm their dedication to education and to reestablishing values where children can live by example and where pride of community will be felt by everyone; and be it further
- RESOLVED, That the Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers, its members, units, and councils urge school districts to establish policies and guidelines so that the student or students involved in the act of vandalism be required, with the permission of the parent, to assume responsibility for their actions in the form of a work program in the school and in conjunction with the financial obligation of the parent; and, be it further
- RESOLVED, That the Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers urges the General Assembly to appropriate funds to establish violence and vandalism prevention programs in the schools.

Adopted 1976
Amended 1977