

SMOKELESS TOBACCO

- WHEREAS, The PTA has long been concerned with the health, welfare, and safety of children and youth; and
- WHEREAS, The National PTA adopted a position statement (Tobacco and Health, 1984) which opposes advertising and promotion that encourages children and youth to use tobacco in any form, including chewing tobacco and snuff; and
- WHEREAS, It is estimated that of the more than ten (10) million Americans who use smokeless tobacco today, three (3) million are less than twenty-one (21) years of age with a significant proportion being teen age boys; and
- WHEREAS, Recent studies indicate a steady increase in the frequency of use of smokeless tobacco by our youth with substantial usage being reported at each grade level from kindergarten through senior high school; and
- WHEREAS, Use of smokeless tobacco increased the frequency of localized gum recession and leukoplakia, (white lesions on the gums having carcinogenic potential); and
- WHEREAS, Smokeless tobacco release nicotine into the bloodstream and produces blood levels of nicotine comparable to those produced by smoking tobacco, which can lead to acute elevation of blood pressure and long-term nicotine dependence; and
- WHEREAS, The presence of lead and cadmium in smokeless tobacco may pose a special risk for the developing fetus of pregnant female users; and
- WHEREAS, Epidemiological evidence that the use of smokeless tobacco causes cancer of the mouth, pharynx and esophagus is strong; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That the Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers, and its local units and councils, urge the Missouri General Assembly to enact legislation mandating that manufacturers print warnings on all outdoor billboards used to advertise smokeless tobacco; and be it further
- RESOLVED, That the Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers embark upon a vigorous campaign educating its local units, councils and the general public to the dangers of smokeless tobacco and its effects on our children and youth; and be it further
- RESOLVED, That the Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers and its units and councils urge local school districts to implement an in-class education process, kindergarten through twelfth grade, on the dangers of smokeless tobacco.

Adopted 1987