Proposed Resolution on Clean Air and Water for Utah's Children Health

WHEREAS, The commitment to the protection of children's health and well-being is a fundamental priority of Utah PTA, and we acknowledge the need to address air and water quality issues to mitigate the health risks posed to our state's children [1-2] ; and

WHEREAS, Children's health is important to their development and well-being; ensuring access to clean air and water contributes to better health outcomes for children [3-4]; and

WHEREAS, Utah PTA acknowledges the right of parents to advocate for access to clean air and water to support their children's health [5-6]; and

WHEREAS, Scientific research has established a clear link between environmental pollutants and negative health outcomes in children beginning as early as perinatal development[7-8 9]; and

WHEREAS, Utah's mountainous terrain and valley geography contribute to the trapping of air pollution, and temperature inversions prevent pollutants from dispersing leading to prolonged exposure and increased respiratory risks, particularly for children;[10-11] ; and

WHEREAS, Children have a higher inhalation rate relative to their body weight compared to adults, increasing their exposure to airborne pollutants , and Utah currently ranks within the top 10 states experiencing elevated levels of air pollution[12-14]; and

WHEREAS, Access to clean and safe water supports children's health, and in Utah's desert climate, water conservation is necessary to maintain a sustainable supply for current and future use[15-16]; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That Utah PTA calls on governments at all levels to enact and enforce policies and regulations aimed at reducing air and water pollution, with a specific focus on areas where children are most vulnerable, such as schools and residential areas; and be it further

Resolved, That Utah PTA recognizes the critical role that local governments, businesses, and individuals play in ensuring access to clean air and water for better public health and supports the development of policies and programs that encourage sustainable practices and responsible resource management; and be it further

Resolved, That Utah PTA advocates for increased public awareness and education about

the impact of air and water quality on children's health, supporting parents in their right to advocate for healthier resources for their children; and be it further

Resolved, That Utah PTA calls on governments, organizations, and individuals to implement evidence-based policies, invest in cleaner technologies, low-emission and sustainable energy solutions, and infrastructure improvements that will reduce environmental pollutants and lead to a healthier environment for all of Utah's children; and be it further

Resolved, That Utah PTA encourages the creation and adoption of sustainable and environmentally safe policies, particularly in industries and agriculture, to mitigate the impact of air pollution worsened by Utah's geographic conditions and promote cleaner air and water; and be it further

Resolved, That Utah PTA collaborates with parents, students, and community partners to urge local, state, and national leaders to support research and adopt policies that prioritize reducing children's exposure to air pollution, particularly in high-risk areas; and be it further

Resolved, That Utah PTA urges local and state leaders to implement policies that promote sustainable water use, protect existing water sources, and support infrastructure improvements to ensure long-term access to clean and safe water for Utah's children.

(Updates and replaces HEA 1994-1, HEA 2008-2, and HEA 2009-2)

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