

## **RESOLUTION IMPLEMENTATION: HOW HAVE WE MADE A DIFFERENCE?**

How have we made a difference? Many current policies and statutes that have made a difference for children, youths and families began as a Resolution. Establishing the Juvenile Justice System, advocating for youths aged 18 and under (instead of 17 and under) to be considered juveniles, ensuring complete vision examinations for children before starting school, limitations on the use of cell phones while driving, a Parents' Guide to the Illinois Graduated Driver's License System, and food allergy and anaphylaxis awareness, are only a few.

In order for Resolutions to be effective and for great things to happen for our children, each local unit/council is asked to incorporate the "implementation" of current Resolutions into their plan of work. We need the enthusiasm and energy of each and every one of you to be successful! So: Be Involved, and Speak Out!

### **UPDATES ON CURRENT RESOLUTIONS**

**2014 Resolution on Special Education Issues Awareness:** We have provided local units with additional information in the Local Unit Packet entitled, Resolutions: Contents for Immediate Use, under the Legislative Advocacy section, which includes an article to place in newsletters on this issue, as well as means to advocate for your child. We continue to monitor the Illinois General Assembly for related legislation.

**2013 Resolution on Prevention of Asphyxiation Games (Choking Game):** We successfully worked with the Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics to increase awareness and help to prevent further tragedies. We have jointly written an article directed to Illinois pediatricians, [The Choking Game: Updates and Recommendations to Clinical Practitioners](#) by Kshama Shah, MD, MPH; Molly Diaz, MD, MPH; Lisa Garbaty; and Joseph Hageman, MD, that was published in the *Illinois Pediatrician*. Related to this, we jointly created an information sheet for those pediatricians to distribute to parents/caregivers, [The Choking Game: What Parents and Caregivers Need to Know](#).

In addition, we have provided local units with updated information in the Local Unit Packet, which includes a ready to go article for local PTAs and Councils to place in their newsletters indicating the warning signs of this dangerous activity.

**2013 Resolution on Energy Drinks:** In accordance with the "resolveds" of this resolution, we have continued to monitor proposed legislation that will regulate energy drink consumption by youths. In order to continue to assist local units with their advocacy efforts and help bring awareness to concerns regarding these beverages, we are included an updated reproducible article on the dangers of energy drinks for local unit newsletters in the Local Unit Packet. (While we have not had success on legislation related to directly to energy drinks, with respect to a recent Bill on the related issue of powdered caffeine sale and distribution to youth in Illinois, Senate Bill 9 has passed both houses and is awaiting the Governor's signature as of this writing. We have written to the Governor urging that he sign SB9 into law.)

## UPDATES ON PAST RESOLUTIONS / CONTINUING POSITIONS

**Resolution on Inappropriate Electronic Communications (2010)** - now a Continuing Position. The Illinois PTA provides relevant information on internet safety issues via a quick links on the [Illinois PTA's Juvenile Protection and Safety webpage](#) to the [Internet Child Safety site](#) and to information from [Shield Genie](#), an Illinois PTA partner.

**Resolution on Children with Food Allergy (2008):** In relation to this Continuing Position, we supported important related legislation, including HB 5892 from the 98<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, now Public Act 98-0795, which provides for additional protections to students having anaphylactic reactions with respect to their ability to administer and carry asthma medications and epinephrine auto-injector, with additional safeguards. We have also continued to provide you with relevant information through our newsletter articles, as well links to [National PTA's Anaphylaxis: Be Aware, Prepared and Ready to Respond video series](#).

**Juvenile Justice (2006 and prior):** We have had a number of recent successes in this area which include the signing into law of Public Act 98-0637, effective 1/1/15 which provides for the annual automatic expungement of law enforcement records pertaining to a minor who has been arrested by the Department of State Police.

We continue to support legislation in connection with this issue, including House Bill 2567 and House Bill 3718. HB 2567 would amend the Juvenile Court Act to provide that a child under the age of 13 cannot be detained in a detention facility unless a local youth service provider has been contacted and has not been able to accept the child. House Bill 3718 would amend the Juvenile Court Act to expand juvenile court discretion over the very important decision to try children in adult court, by limiting automatic transfer, now triggered by age and charged offense. Both HB 2567 and HB 3718 have passed both houses, and, as of this writing, await the Governor's signature. The Illinois PTA has written to the Governor, urging him to sign these Bills.

**Resolution on Bullying (2002):** In connection with our Continuing Position, the Illinois PTA has supported relevant legislation, including HB 5707, which was signed into law and is now Public Act 098-0669, which provides for specific information that must be obtained and included in reports of bullying for each public elementary and secondary school, charter school, and non-public, non-sectarian elementary and secondary school, and provides for certain requirements in school bullying policy, including procedures in reporting and in investigation of reports.

To help prevent and know how to respond to bullying, we have also created an easy access link on our website to [Stop Bullying](#), with helpful information from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services on this ongoing concern.