

## **Resolution on Hydraulic Fracturing (“Fracking”)/Oil and Gas Industry Drilling Hazards**

- Whereas:** The Illinois PTA Legislation Platform, section 9, Environment, item a, states in pertinent part that the Illinois PTA will support improved legislation that will set and enforce standards and appropriate funds that are adequate to control air and water pollution, and other environmental deterioration within the state; and
- Whereas:** Hydraulic fracturing is a process by which fractures in rocks below the earth's surface are expanded by the high-pressure injection of chemicals and liquids in order to extract natural gas or oil; and
- Whereas:** According to the research conducted in relation to the practice of hydraulic fracturing, the water cycle may be contaminated by chemicals—including known carcinogens and radioactive materials—at any of several points in the hydraulic fracturing process, and an estimated 35% of all Illinois residents, which includes 90% of all rural Illinois residents, obtain their drinking water from aquifers; and
- Whereas:** According to the Environmental Protection Agency’s report of December 2016, additional information is needed to further ascertain the impact of hydraulic fracturing on the water cycle; and
- Whereas:** Research has found there to be unsafe levels of air pollution associated with hydraulic fracturing resulting in adverse health effects to the: respiratory system, including asthma attacks and lung disease; the nervous system, including dizziness and seizures; birth defects, in particular to the heart, brain and nervous system; blood disorders; and cancer; and
- Whereas:** The United States Geological Survey 2016 report indicates a substantial increase in induced earthquakes (earthquakes triggered by human activities) in the Midwest caused by the processes involved in oil and gas extraction methods of predominantly wastewater injection wells, but also hydraulic fracturing, from an average of 24 earthquakes per year in 1978-2008, to an average of 314 per year from 2009–2015, with a total of 1,010 recorded earthquakes in 2015; now therefore be it



## Illinois PTA 2017 Resolution

**Resolved:** That the Illinois PTA and its constituent bodies disseminate information with respect to the health and safety concerns related hydraulic fracturing and wastewater well injection; and be it further

**Resolved:** That the Illinois PTA will work with other like-minded organizations to raise awareness of the health and safety concerns related to hydraulic fracturing and wastewater well injection; and be it further

**Resolved:** That the Illinois PTA and its constituent bodies support additional evaluations of the current and new methods of gas and oil extraction and their potential impact on the environment based upon research from independent agencies not affiliated with the energy industry; and be it further

**Resolved:** That the Illinois PTA and its constituent bodies support state and/or federal legislation that addresses any air or water pollution or other environmental deterioration caused by hydraulic fracturing according to available research results; and be it further

**Resolved:** That, as the issues involved with hydraulic fracturing are a national issue, the Illinois PTA submit this resolution in the appropriate format to the National PTA for consideration by delegates to the 2018 National PTA convention.