

## 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 let's all continue our efforts to ensure that we all Soar to New Heights!

### UPDATES ON CURRENT RESOLUTIONS

**2016 Resolution on Young Adults Involved in the Justice System:** We created a study committee in connection with one of the Resolves of this Resolution to address the separate diversion and sentencing options for young adults and/or raising the age of the juvenile court. In connection with this Resolution, the study committee has provided a report for the 115<sup>th</sup> Illinois PTA Convention with recommendations to our membership body.

**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. We have published several articles related to students with special needs on the One Voice Illinois blog.

### UPDATES ON PAST RESOLUTIONS / CONTINUING POSITIONS

**Resolution on Prevention of Asphyxiation Games (Choking Game) (2013):** Our partnership with the Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics to increase awareness and help to prevent further tragedies was successful. 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](#). We continue to provide 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.

**Resolution on Energy Drinks (2013):** In accordance with the “resolveds” of this resolution, we have supported related legislation including House Bill 2861, that was hotly contested by energy drink manufacturers and distributors. This bill has now moved out of Committee and set for its 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and standard debate.

**Resolution on Children with Food Allergy (2008):** In relation to this Continuing Position, we continue to monitor appropriate legislation, including SB2038 which expands the forms of epinephrine that may be used by school personnel in the event of an anaphylactic reaction. We have also continued to provide you with relevant information through our articles and blog posts, as well links to [National PTA’s Anaphylaxis: Be Aware, Prepared and Ready to Respond video series](#).

**Resolutions in connection with Juvenile Justice (2006 and prior):** We have had a number of recent successes in this area, as noted in the companion Legislation Report provided. In addition, we continue to support related legislation, including House Bill 678 which would require that a juvenile be brought before a judicial officer within 24 hours to determine further custody, and that an initial detention hearing is to be no later than the morning after their arrival in placement, including weekends and holidays.

**Resolution on Bullying Prevention (2002) :** In connection with this continuing position, we have continued to support related policies and legislation, including HB2950 regarding Anti-Bullying Resources and policy, which would require that the school policy concerning bullying be provided periodically throughout the year to students and faculty, and would require the school to have known personnel available for assistance in connection with bullying.