

**Resolution on Hydraulic Fracturing/Oil and Gas Industry
Drilling Hazards**

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



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Illinois PTA Convention 2017 Resolution

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

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

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

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

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

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43 The Illinois PTA Board of Directors has reviewed this Resolution and determined that it meets the
44 Resolution Criteria.