

# 2021 Resolution on Health Care for Children in the Foster Care System

1 **Whereas**, the Illinois PTA Legislation Platform Section 7, Protection of Children and Youth, Item  
2 b., maintains that we support adequate legislative and/or financial support for improvement of  
3 the protection, health and welfare of children in substitute care; and

4 **Whereas**, foster children are uniquely vulnerable and have much higher rates than the general  
5 pediatric population of developmental disorders, certain medical disorders, mental health  
6 disorders, and behavioral disorders, and are more than twice as likely to require inpatient  
7 care; and

8 **Whereas**, eighteen thousand children who are in foster care with the Department of Children and  
9 Family Services (DCFS) in Illinois, were transferred to a managed care plan. Parents and  
10 caregivers are reporting great difficulties getting accurate information about their children's  
11 health coverage and timely assessments identifying and confirming their specific needs; and

12 **Whereas**, child advocates report the number of healthcare providers with the managed care  
13 network is inadequate to care for the children's needs, resulting in parents experiencing  
14 barriers to accessing care; and

15 **Whereas**, pediatricians have identified that Medicaid managed care organizations may impose  
16 limits on certain health services, especially specialist care, mental health care, and vision care,  
17 and that these limits create a barrier to adequate health care in foster care; and

18 **Whereas**, researchers have found that primary care case management programs added to fee-  
19 for-service Medicaid results in children having better access to adequate care coordination as  
20 defined by the American Academy of Pediatrics than children in regular fee-for-service  
21 Medicaid and much better access than children enrolled in Medicaid managed care  
22 organizations; now therefore be it

23 **Resolved**, that the Illinois PTA and its constituent bodies disseminate information with respect to  
24 health concerns for children in the Illinois foster care system; and be it further

25 **Resolved**, that the Illinois PTA will work with other like-minded organizations to protect the  
26 health of children in foster care and former foster children; and be it further

27 **Resolved**, that the Illinois PTA and its constituent bodies support legislation which ensures that  
28 children in the foster care system have access to healthcare without limiting health services or  
29 restricting the providers available to the child, which ensures that foster parents have  
30 adequate information, and which would enhance coordination between all parties to a child's  
31 health care

Submitted by: South Side PTA

**The Illinois PTA Resolutions Committee has reviewed the Resolution and determined that  
it meets the Resolutions Criteria.**