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ILLINOIS PTA 2018 RESOLUTION (AS AMENDED 2023)

RESOLUTION ON ELECTRONIC NICOTINE DELIVERY SYSTEMS (ENDS)

Whereas, Item 7a of the Illinois Legislative Platform calls for adequate legislative and/or financial support for the protection, health, and welfare of children and youth; and

Whereas, the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse estimates that one-half of middle school students who use an electronic cigarette device (e-cigarette) or Electronic Nicotine Delivery System (ENDS) say it was the first tobacco product used and

Whereas, the Surgeon General's 2016 report demonstrates that e-cigarette and other ENDS use has increased considerably in recent years, growing an astounding 900% among high school students from 2011 to 2015; and

Whereas, the Surgeon Generals' 2016 report explores how nicotine exposure can harm adolescent brain development in ways that may affect the health and mental health of our kids; and

Whereas, according to the 2015 National Youth Tobacco Survey (NYTS), an estimated 27.1% of U.S. adolescents, representing approximately 7,260,500 persons, had ever tried e-cigarettes (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC], unpublished data [NYTS 2015]); and

Whereas, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the developing brains of children and teens are particularly vulnerable to nicotine, and, in connection with this, the AAP strongly recommends raising the minimum age to purchase tobacco products, including ENDS to 21 years; and

Whereas, Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) reports that the 2016 High School Risk Behavior Survey indicates that 47% of Illinois high school students have tried or currently use ENDS; and now therefore be it

Whereas, studies indicate that youth smoking rates are higher when there are more tobacco retail stores near schools. Currently, Illinois legislation does not address the proximity of tobacco retailers to schools nor does every local municipality, now therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Illinois PTA disseminate information to its constituent bodies on the dangers inherent in the use of e-cigarettes and other ENDS by children and youth; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Illinois PTA work with other associations and agencies in limiting the availability of e-cigarettes and other ENDS to children and youth; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Illinois PTA work with the Illinois State Board of Education to require that the learning standards for Health and Physical Education include age-appropriate information on the dangers inherent in the use of e-cigarettes and other ENDS; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Illinois PTA and its constituent associations work with other associations and agencies to encourage and support state legislation and local ordinances regarding the proximity of tobacco retail stores to schools.