

RESOLUTION

(Adopted by the 2017 convention delegates)

SUICIDE PREVENTION

WHEREAS, Death by suicide is the second leading cause of death among persons ages 10-24 (more than motor vehicle deaths, cancer deaths, and homicides); and

WHEREAS, It is a recognized fact that bullying, depression, isolation, fear, anger, drug/alcohol use, and stress are major reasons for suicide in the young; and

WHEREAS, White and Hispanic youth have one of the highest rates of death by suicide and attempted suicide; and

WHEREAS, LGBTQ youth are also at high risk of death by suicide due to increased bullying, physical/verbal harassment, violence, homelessness, and rejection by family and friends; and

WHEREAS, Firearms account for over half of all suicide deaths among males ages 10-18; and

WHEREAS, At the present time the Colorado Department of Education does not require formal education on suicide prevention and awareness of suicide risk factors and warning signs; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Colorado PTA compile and promote utilization of suicide prevention resources and collaborate with a network of partners engaged in suicide prevention; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Colorado PTA support programs and projects that inform school administrators, teachers, support staff, parents and caregivers, students, and the community about youth suicide prevention through its regions, councils, and local units; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Colorado PTA seek and support legislation to provide suicide prevention education and mental health services.