ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR EDUCATION

WHEREAS, Tennessee ranks 49th nationally in expenditures for elementary and secondary education. The U.S. Census Bureau reveals that State and local taxes in Tennessee, as a percentage of personal income are the lowest of any state other than New Hampshire; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee is the only Southeastern state without a state-funded reading initiative despite the fact that only one in four of the state's 4th grade students are proficient in reading; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee is falling behind in technology ranking 42nd nationally in the number of students per computer and the number of students having access to Internet-ready computers, and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's Governor's Schools, a summer program that sent hundreds of high school students to college campuses across the state for academic enrichment, will not operate this summer; and

WHEREAS, Due to the fiscal crisis facing our state, Tennessee's schools could face losing millions in state revenue; therefore further reducing education funding for a state already ranked 49th out of the 50 states; be it therefore

RESOLVED, That the Tennessee PTA and its constituent bodies urge the Tennessee Legislature to make education funding the first priority in budget matters and to seek long-term, permanent funding solutions for education; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Tennessee PTA and its constituent bodies urge the Tennessee Legislature to make NO cuts to current education funding; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Tennessee PTA and its constituent bodies encourage legislators to fully fund the Basic Education Plan (BEP); and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Tennessee PTA and its constituent bodies encourage the Tennessee Legislature to fully fund all legislated education mandates; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Tennessee PTA and its constituent bodies work to educate the general public of the dangerous situation facing education in Tennessee and to urge their membership to personally contact their legislators.

Adopted by the 2002 Convention Delegates