IN-LINE SKATING AND SKATEBOARDING SAFETY

WHEREAS, For many years skateboarding has been a popular activity for children and teenagers; and

WHEREAS, The overall participation of in-line skating has grown from 15 million participants in 1994 to over 20 million in 2002; and

WHEREAS, Statistics indicate that an estimated 100,000 in-line skating injuries and 104,000 skateboard injuries were treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms in 2001 and the median age for injury was 14 – 15; and

WHEREAS, Use of protective equipment, such as helmets, wrist protectors, knee pads, elbow pads, and knowledge of proper skating techniques, by skateboarders, and in-line skaters could drastically reduce the severity of their injuries; and

WHEREAS, Since injury statistics continue to increase for in-line skating and skateboarding, it appears the public is not fully aware of the need for safety equipment and training; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Tennessee PTA and its constituent bodies identify and make available information to local units, encouraging them to provide educational programs about in-line skating and skateboarding safety to parents and children on the need for protective equipment and training; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Tennessee PTA and its constituent bodies encourage educators, community agencies, and organizations to actively support the use of protective equipment and training without criminalizing the activity.

Adopted by the 2003 Convention Delegates as Amended