RACIAL CLARIFICATION CHOICE

WHEREAS, the population in the United States has become more diverse as reflected in the capability to choose more than one race in the 2000 Census; and

WHEREAS, approximately 2.4 percent of the population, over 6.8 million Americans, illustrated, by choosing two or more races, this diversification; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) reviewed the racial and ethnic classification issues in Directive #15 in 1995, and determined that changes needed to be made to reflect the diversification of the United States population; and

WHEREAS, the OMB gives states and individuals the option to choose more than one race and/or ethnic group while requiring that the reported data fit into the five standard categories adopted in 1997 and be fully implemented by the federal government by 2003; and

WHEREAS, there is not a rule, regulation, or policy that prevents parents and guardians of children and youth from changing the racial classification from one year to the next, thereby rendering any data collected and aggregated to be false; and

WHEREAS, one of the purposes of National PTA is to bring into closer relation the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the education of children and youth; and

WHEREAS, one part of the mission of National PTA is to support and speak on behalf of children and youth in the schools, in the community, and before governmental bodies and other organizations that make decisions affecting children; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Tennessee PTA strongly urges local and state education authorities to provide the option of choosing "other" or choosing more than one classification; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Tennessee PTA strongly urges the Tennessee General Assembly through legislation to provide for the choosing of "other" or choosing more than one classification; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Tennessee PTA strongly urges the U.S. Department of Education to provide for the reporting of "other" racial classification as to allow that designation to become a classification by its own right.

Adopted by the 2006 Convention Delegates