

## 2.14 Child Abuse Prevention Supports

*Resolution passed 2007; amended 2019*

**Whereas**, RCW 26.44.020 defines child abuse or neglect as sexual abuse, sexual exploitation or injury of a child by any person under circumstances which cause harm to the child's health, welfare, or safety; and

**Whereas**, Washington State PTA is concerned about the health, safety, and welfare of all children; and

**Whereas**, child abuse crosses all boundaries of economics, race, ethnic heritage, religious faith, or geographic location; and

**Whereas**, child abuse is associated with lower school achievement, juvenile delinquency, substance use disorders, and mental health problems.

**Therefore, be it**

**Resolved**, that Washington State PTA will assist local PTAs, councils, and regions statewide in creating, acquiring and implementing programs that emphasize the vital role of community, early intervention services, and caregiver education to help keep children safe from abuse, both physical and emotional; and be it further

**Resolved**, that Washington State PTA will partner and provide voice, advocacy and resources to legislators, the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Department of Children, Youth and Families, Indian Child Welfare, Kinship Care services, local agencies, school districts, schools, local PTAs and councils to advocate for the necessary services and resources with the required funding needed to support and educate families and communities.