

RESOLUTION IMPLEMENTATION: HOW HAVE WE MADE A DIFFERENCE?

How have we made a difference? Many current policies and statutes that have made a difference for children, youths and families began as a Resolution. Establishing the Juvenile Justice System, advocating for youths aged 18 and under (instead of 17 and under) to be considered juveniles, ensuring complete vision examinations for children before starting school, limitations on the use of cell phones while driving, a Parents' Guide to the Illinois Graduated Driver's License System, and food allergy and anaphylaxis awareness, are only a few.

In order for Resolutions to be effective and for great things to happen for our children, each local unit/council is asked to incorporate the "implementation" of current Resolutions into their plan of work. We need the enthusiasm and energy of each and every one of you to be successful! So let's all continue our efforts to ensure that we all Soar to New Heights!

UPDATES ON CURRENT RESOLUTIONS

2014 Resolution on Special Education Issues Awareness: We have provided local units with additional information in the Local Unit Packet entitled, Resolutions: Contents for Immediate Use, under the Legislative Advocacy section, which includes an article to place in newsletters on this issue, as well as means to advocate for your child. We continue to monitor the Illinois General Assembly for related legislation.

2013 Resolution on Prevention of Asphyxiation Games (Choking Game): Our partnership with the Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics to increase awareness and help to prevent further tragedies was successful. We have jointly written an article directed to Illinois pediatricians, [The Choking Game: Updates and Recommendations to Clinical Practitioners](#) by Kshama Shah, MD, MPH; Molly Diaz, MD, MPH; Lisa Garbaty; and Joseph Hageman, MD, that was published in the *Illinois Pediatrician*. Related to this, we jointly created an information sheet for those pediatricians to distribute to parents/caregivers, [The Choking Game: What Parents and Caregivers Need to Know](#). We continue to provide local units with updated information in the Local Unit Packet, which includes a ready to go article for local PTAs and Councils to place in their newsletters indicating the warning signs of this dangerous activity.

2013 Resolution on Energy Drinks: In accordance with the "resolveds" of this resolution, we are supporting House Bill 5627 which will eliminate the sale and distribution of energy drinks to youth under 18 years old. In order to continue to assist local units with their advocacy efforts and help bring awareness to concerns regarding these beverages, we are included an updated reproducible article on the dangers of energy drinks for local unit newsletters in the Local Unit Packet. In relation to the issue of caffeine and its dangers to youth, we also supported Senate Bill 9 – the Powdered Caffeine Act - in 2015 – which is now [Public Act 99-0050](#).

UPDATES ON PAST RESOLUTIONS / CONTINUING POSITIONS

Resolution on Inappropriate Electronic Communications (2010) - now a Continuing Position. The Illinois PTA provides relevant information on internet safety issues via a quick links on the [Illinois PTA's Juvenile Protection and Safety webpage](#) to the [Internet Child Safety site](#) and on our blog – [OneVoiceIllinois](#).

Resolution on Children with Food Allergy (2008): In relation to this Continuing Position, we continue to monitor appropriate legislation, including [HB4462](#), which would expand . We have also continued to provide you with relevant information through our articles and blog posts, as well links to [National PTA's Anaphylaxis: Be Aware, Prepared and Ready to Respond video series](#).

Juvenile Justice (2006 and prior): We have had a number of recent successes in this area which include the signing into law of House Bill 2567 and House Bill 3718. [HB 2567, now Public Act 99-0254](#), amends the Juvenile Court Act to provide that a child under the age of 13 cannot be detained in a detention facility unless a local youth service provider has been contacted and has not been able to accept the child. [HB 3718, now Public Act 99-0258](#), amends the Juvenile Court Act to expand juvenile court discretion over the very important decision to try children in adult court.

We continue to support related bills, including: [HB 5619](#) which includes the requirement that an alleged juvenile delinquent must be brought before a judicial officer within 24 hours to determine further custody; and [SB 2370](#), which includes the provision that Provides that a minor who was under 18 at the time of the commission of any offense must be represented by counsel throughout the entire custodial interrogation.