

UTAH PTA SUPPORTS MILITARY FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

WHEREAS The Utah PTA recognizes the value of military service and the unique challenges that families and children of service members face with separations, deployments, homecomings, relocations and crises due to military assignments^{1,2}; and

WHEREAS The care of our nation's military-connected children helps sustain our fighting force, and therefore helps strengthen the health, security, and safety of our nation's families and communities^{3,4}; and

WHEREAS National studies have reported that military-connected children have an increased risk of depression, emotional problems, stress, behavior problems, alcohol and drug abuse^{5,6}; and

WHEREAS Identification of military-connected children may be critical to their academic success, behavior, and health, allowing school administrators, teachers, counselors, and staff to meet the specific needs of, and give support to, military-connected children^{7,8}; now, therefore, be it

Resolved. That Utah PTA encourage its constituent bodies to recognize, celebrate and honor military families and children by participating in patriotic activities and programs like the Month of the Military Family and the Month of the Military Child activities and programs; and be it further

Resolved. That Utah PTA supports the implementation of and encourages the Utah Legislature to pass legislation that has an identifier for military-connected children in the state educational data system which would provide data collected annually for the purpose only of identifying and supporting military-connected children and assist in their academic success, behavior and health; and be it further

Resolved. That Utah PTA and its constituent bodies support legislation to assist district superintendents, local school administrators, staff and teachers to identify, recognize and support military-connected children and the unique challenges they face; and be it further

Resolved. That Utah PTA collaborate with military leadership and government officials to identify and develop programs to recognize, celebrate, support and honor military families and children.

Documentation:

¹Office of the President of the United States, *Strengthening Our Military Families: Meeting America's Commitment*, January 2011.

²Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, *Keeping Faith With Our Military Family*, January 28, 2013.

³National Child Traumatic Stress Network, *Military and Veteran Families and Children*, March 20, 2014; "Month of Military Child", April, 2014.

⁴Office of the President of the United States, *Strengthening Our Military Families: Meeting America's Commitment*, January 2011.

⁵Laura Acion, Marizen R. Ramirez, Ricardo E. Jorge, and Stephen Arndt, *Increased Risk of Alcohol and Drug Use From Among Children From Deployed Military Families*. *Addiction*, 2013; DOI:10.1111/add.12161.

⁶Richard M. Lerner, John F. Zaff, Jacqueline V. Lerner. *America's Youth Towards a Study of Positive Development in the Face of Challenge*. (Harker Heights, Texas: Military Child Coalition, 2009).

⁷*The Future of Children*, Princeton University and Brookings Institution, Military Children and Families, Vol. 23, No. 2, Fall, 2013. Harold Kudler and COL Rebecca I. Porter, USA, *Building Communities of Care for Military Children and Families*.

⁸*Ibid.* Patricia Lester and Lt. Col. Eric Flake, USAF, *How War Time Military Service Affects Military Children and Families*.