

### CHILD ADOPTIONS

- WHEREAS, There are 36,000 children in the United States who are waiting to be adopted and who have survived the tragedy of abuse and neglect and are in need of secure, loving families; and
- WHEREAS, Of these 36,000 children, 44% are 13-17 years old, 27% are physically disabled and 46% are of minority heritage; and
- WHEREAS, Adoption saves taxpayers an average of \$5,000 per child per year until the child is 18 years old; and
- WHEREAS, According to the National Prison Project in Washington D.C., a survey was made of men in prison today which indicated that 90% of these men grew up in some kind of institutional or foster care, were abandoned by their parents, or were victims of child abuse; and
- WHEREAS, Sixty to eight-five percent of the children who are featured on television are successfully adopted (i.e. "Wednesday's Child"); and
- WHEREAS, Children who have been victims of severe neglect and abuse and who are passed from foster home to foster home may be unaware of how families function; and
- WHEREAS, This breakdown in the family is a major contributor to the national crime rate; and
- WHEREAS, These children needing to be adopted or who are in foster homes are inadvertently but nonetheless clearly damaged by the system that seeks to protect them; now, therefore, be it
- Resolved, That Utah PTA encourage families to adopt these special children; and be it further
- Resolved, That Utah PTA encourage the legislature to provide more information about these children to qualified families through a state organized and funded child adoption registry; and be it further
- Resolved, That Utah PTA encourage the legislature to develop a support system to follow through to ensure the success of the adoptees; and be it further
- Resolved, That Utah PTA encourage agencies to set aside a percentage of the monies paid to them to adopt these children to be recycled back into the registry to help fund the State Adoption Registry; and be it further
- Resolved, That Utah PTA encourage the legislature to pass laws that will ensure that the best interests of the child be given primary emphasis in adoption matters; and be it further
- Resolved, That Utah PTA encourage programs that would promote community support and awareness for the adoptive family.