

HEALTH ADVISORY DAYS

- WHEREAS, One of the Objects of PTA is to promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school, and community; and
- WHEREAS, In 1970, the U.S. Congress passed the Clean Air Act, mandating the government to protect people from the adverse effects of air pollution, without regard to the economic costs of doing so; and
- WHEREAS, The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has promulgated a fine particulate (PM 10) standard limit of 150 micrograms per cubic meter of air over a 24-hour period; and
- WHEREAS, The Utah State Department of Environmental Quality declares Health Advisory Days on such days over the EPA limits, urging reduced activity on such days; and
- WHEREAS, Those most sensitive to the effects of PM 10 are children, mouth breathers, the elderly, and persons with chronic pulmonary or cardiovascular disease, asthma, or influenza; and
- WHEREAS, 5% of Utah school children have been diagnosed with asthma; and
- WHEREAS, It is critical for children with respiratory problems, especially asthma, to avoid problem triggers such as dust, dry, cold air, and smoke; and
- WHEREAS, Studies throughout the Wasatch Front have shown school absenteeism roughly 40% higher on days directly following PM 10 exceedence; and
- WHEREAS, Extensive research throughout the Wasatch Front have also shown that the number of hospital admissions of children, 0-17 years of age, for pneumonia, pleurisy, bronchitis, and asthma nearly triple during the periods of PM 10 exceedence compared to times of no exceedence; now, therefore, be it
- Resolved, That Utah PTA encourage the Utah State Office of Education and local school boards to enact policies keeping children indoors and restricting physical activity on Health Advisory Days; and be it further
- Resolved, That Utah PTA encourage the Utah High School Activity Association, coaches, teachers, and administrators to restrict exercise, particularly outdoor exercise, for children and youth on Health Advisory Days; and be it further
- Resolved, That Utah PTA petition the State Health Department to enact policies that would require local county boards of health to notify all school districts within their county when PM 10 levels are in exceedence; and be it further
- Resolved, That Utah PTA work to educate parents to the potential health risks precipitated by PM 10 exceedence levels and the significance of Health Advisory Days; and be it further

Resolved,

That Utah PTA organize a task force through the Health Commission to study existing applicable laws, health risks resulting from air pollution, and possible solutions to the crisis, with a charge of reporting back its recommendations, current statutes, and any proposed legislation.