

RADON

- WHEREAS, Radon is a naturally-occurring colorless, radioactive gas formed by radioactive decay of uranium found in soils and rocks all across the U.S., which can move through the soil and into buildings through cracks and openings in the foundation; and
- WHEREAS, The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that radon causes about 14,000 lung cancer deaths in the U.S. each year and the U.S. Surgeon General has warned that radon is a leading cause of lung cancer deaths, second only to smoking; and
- WHEREAS, Prolonged exposure of elevated radon concentrations cause an increased risk of lung cancer; and
- WHEREAS, EPA has conducted a National School Radon Survey and the results show widespread radon contamination in schools with estimates that 19.3% of U.S. schools, nearly one in five, have at least one frequently occupied ground contact room with radon levels above 4 pCi/L, the level at which EPA recommends mitigation; and
- WHEREAS, The Indoor Radon Abatement Act of 1988 states that: "The national long-term goal of the United States with respect to radon levels in buildings is that the air within buildings should be as free as the ambient air outside the building", and
- WHEREAS, The EPA recommends that all schools test and periodically re-test for radon and mitigate areas with elevated concentrations; now, therefore, be it
- Resolved, That Utah PTA, together with its constituent bodies, work to inform parents about the concerns of radon exposure and provide access for parents to inexpensive radon detecting kits for their homes; and be it further
- Resolved, That Utah PTA, along with its constituent bodies, encourage all Utah school districts to have all school buildings periodically tested for radon, especially rooms and areas that are frequently occupied and have a floor or a wall touching the ground or above an enclosed crawl space; and be it further
- Resolved, That Utah PTA, along with its constituent bodies, encourage all Utah school districts to work to correct all areas where radon levels are above 4 pCi/L and install radon prevention features during construction of new buildings or renovation of existing buildings, and be it further
- Resolved, That Utah PTA submit this resolution to National PTA for their consideration.