

DETAINING CHILDREN AFTER SCHOOL

- WHEREAS, Child abductions, sexual molestations, and other hazards threaten today's children; and
- WHEREAS, The practice of holding children after school creates a situation where children have to journey home without the company of other children; and
- WHEREAS, The child's safety may be further threatened by the lack of crossing guards due to the length of detainment and individual walking speed; and
- WHEREAS, Prearranged safety measures such as car pools and walking home arrangements are disrupted, creating anxiety and confusion for drivers and friends having to wait or leave without the child; and
- WHEREAS, Parents worry as they wonder what could be keeping their child from returning home on time; and
- WHEREAS, The practice discriminates against those who do not ride the bus; as those children who do are seldom if ever held after school; and
- WHEREAS, Parents are concerned with the possibility of child abuse that could occur inside the school as a result of their child being held after alone; now, therefore, be it
- Resolved, That the practice of holding elementary age children after school be generally discontinued and that alternatives be implemented that would be more appropriate, given the danger of after school detainment; and be it further
- Resolved, That if for any reason a child is held after scheduled school hours, his parent or guardian must be notified immediately of the reason and length of detainment so as to anticipate and assist the child's safe arrival home; and be it further
- Resolved, That if the parent cannot be notified, the child cannot be detained; and be it further
- Resolved, That Utah PTA work with the legislature and school boards to secure adequate laws or policies regarding detainment of children after school.