



Suggestions for your January Legislative Chair Report

LOCAL INFORMATION:

Now is a great time to plan a **Town Hall** for your state elected officials or your upcoming school board candidates. Town Halls are very easy to plan and a great advocacy event for your Unit. Hosting a Town Hall counts for the [Advocacy Through Legislation Award \(At Law\)](#) for [Unit and Councils Award](#) and also for the [individual member](#) requirement. Missouri PTA would be happy to assist you in planning and hosting this event.

National Data Privacy Day

January 28th is worldwide Privacy Day. Did you know that Missouri PTA has developed a guide to [Student Data Privacy](#)? This month is a good time to update your Unit so parents or guardians know the laws surrounding their student's data. There are four key laws: Family Educational and Privacy Rights Act ([FERPA](#)), Children's Online Privacy Protection Act ([COPPA](#)), Children's Internet Protection Act ([CIPA](#)) and Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment ([PPRA](#)) these laws in combination work to make sure students across Missouri and the United States are protected.

STATE INFORMATION:

Missouri PTA Legislative Session

The 2017 Legislative session began January 4, 2017. This is the 99th General Assembly of Missouri. There are many bills that have been pre-filed that MO PTA will be watching closely below are three that may gain traction in this session.

Powdered Alcohol

[HB 29](#) would designate powdered alcohol as a controlled substance. Missouri PTA supports legislation that would mark this as a controlled substance and the restrictions on marketing of these products.

Elimination Of Corporate Income Tax

[SB 17](#) would phase out corporate income taxes over the next 3 years. This would be detrimental to the children of Missouri. Corporate taxes are a huge part of the funding piece for public schools and colleges.

Youth Incarceration

[SB 40](#) would make it law the youth under the age of 17 must be tried in a juvenile court unless certified as an adult. It would also prohibit children under 18 from being held in an adult facility at anytime unless certified as an adult. MO PTA supports this bill.

In addition the session will have bills on childhood vaccinations, LGBTQ and legalization of marijuana. As bills begin to progress in the process please be watching for [JC/DC Action Alerts](#) and take action. Please encourage your membership sign up for the alerts too. Sign up is easy and just take a few moments. The bigger presence we have with our legislators the more we can advocate for the children of Missouri.

A complete list of bills currently being followed by Missouri PTA can be found on mopta.org under Advocacy – [Capitol Chatter](#).

NATIONAL INFORMATION:

National PTA releases a statement on Secretary of Education Confirmation Hearing

National PTA along with other education groups were allowed to submit questions they would like answered during the confirmation hearing. PTA is committed to our position statement and mission and will work with whoever is elected on our goals. You can read the statement [here](#).

Missouri PTA signs the NDD United Coalition Letter

National PTA has signed on to the attached [letter](#) from NDD United—a coalition that works to save [nondefense discretionary programs](#) (NDD), of which education funding is one of, from devastating budget cuts. The coalition would like as many local, state and national organizations to sign on as possible to send a strong message to Congress urging members to protect NDD programs from further cuts and to end [sequestration](#). National PTA and 22 state PTAs signed on to a similar [letter](#) last year. Missouri PTA Executive Committee agreed to add our name to the letter. By signing we are encouraging our lawmakers to protect education and other vital programs across the nation.

Stop Solitary for Kids Campaign

National PTA is pleased to announce that we are a supporting organization for the [Stop Solitary for Kids campaign](#). Stop Solitary for Kids is a national campaign to end solitary confinement of youth in juvenile and adult facilities in the U.S. Stop Solitary for Kids will work to achieve their goals by working with key decision makers at the federal, state, and local levels through research, public education, policy reform, improved facility practices, legislative changes, training, and technical assistance.

2016 Approved Resolutions for National PTA

National PTA delegates voted on four resolutions during the National PTA Annual Convention. All of PTAs resolutions, our voice, are debated, amended and voted on by the membership delegates attending convention. Each of the four was passed and is now a part of National and Missouri PTA's resolutions.

- [Electronic Cigarettes and Youth](#)
- [Homework: Quality Over Quantity](#)
- [Recognition of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer/Questioning \(LGBTQ\) Individuals as a Protected Class](#)
- [Water Safety and Instruction](#)

HOW TO BE AN ADVOCATE:

- Plan now for next year's voter registration drive
- View [PTA resources for families on ESSA](#)
- Encourage members to share healthy meals and snacks that are kid tested and approved.
- Join the JC/DC Network - You can also join online under the 'Sign up for the JC/DC Network' link at the bottom of the homepage on the Missouri PTA website for Missouri alerts and online at '[PTA take action network](#)' for National alerts.
- Check out the PTA [One Voice](#) Blog
- Do you tweet? Follow Missouri PTA (@MissouriPTA) and National PTA (@NationalPTA).