

THE AMERICAN LEGION



NATIONAL COMMISSION ON CHILDREN & YOUTH

A SUMMARY OF OFFICIAL ACTIONS AND POSITIONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION ON MATTERS OF CHILDREN & YOUTH

DECEMBER 2011

The resolutions contained within the following pages come under the jurisdiction of the National Commission on Children & Youth and are posted through the 2009 Spring Meetings of the National Executive Committee. Each resolution listed gives a brief summation of its intent and is identified by resolution number, meeting, and year. For example: Resolution No. 56 Spring NEC – 2003 refers to Resolution No. 56 that was adopted at the 2003 Spring Meeting of the National Executive Committee.

In the interest of brevity, policies of The American Legion and the National Commission on Children & Youth listed herein have been paraphrased where technical or exact wording is not essential to the full understanding of the policy.

Over the years, the National Commission on Children & Youth has reiterated a number of policy statements. In such cases, only the most recent resolution has been included.

A complete text of a Children & Youth resolution is available from the Americanism and Children & Youth Division, The American Legion, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis IN 46206; email acy@legion.org.



Dennis Boland, Chairman

National Commission on Children & Youth

AMERICANISM AND CHILDREN & YOUTH DIVISION

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CHILDREN & YOUTH

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CHILD HEALTH AND MEDICAL

Catastrophic Illness Among Children

Calls for legislation to assist financially those families faced with the catastrophic illness of one of their children in order to maintain the integrity of the family.

Resolution No. 278 2010 National Convention

Children's Miracle Network

Encourages department and post to work with and support their local Children's Miracle Network affiliated children's hospitals to benefit the health and well being of our nation's children.

Resolution No. 45 Fall NEC – 2006

Children's Organ Transplant Association

Encourages department and post to work with and support the fund raising efforts of Children's Organ Transplant Association to benefit the health and well being of our nation's children in need of organ transplants.

Resolution No.33 Spring NEC – 2009

Comprehensive Health Care for Children & Youth

Provides for support of the program outlined by the Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant contained in Title V of the Social Security Act and urges Congress to adequately fund these programs, including the Comprehensive Health Care for Children & Youth programs.

Resolution No. 287 2010 National Convention

Mercy Medical Airlift

Adopts the programs of Mercy Medical Airlift to ensure that no child, family or veteran in need is denied access to distant specialized medical evaluation, diagnosis or treatment for lack of long-distance transportation, and encourages department and post to promote this activity in the communities across their state to benefit the health and well-being of our nation's children, families and veterans.

Resolution No. 10 Spring NEC – 2001

Immunization Program

Advocates the position of The American Legion in supporting the fullest use of any licensed vaccine to combat communicable diseases, stimulate immunization programs and provide for medically indigent children through federal and state funding.

Resolution No. 286 2010 National Convention

Ronald McDonald House Charities Pop Tab Collection Program

Adopts the Ronald McDonald House Charities Pop Tab Collection Program as a national children and youth fundraising project; encourages departments and post to work with and support their local Ronald McDonald Houses to help provide housing for financially-challenged families with seriously ill or injured children who must undergo medical treatment at a children's hospital.

Resolution No. 29 Spring NEC – 2005

School Nutrition Program

Urges the Congress of the United States to fund school nutrition programs and provide needed facilities and trained personnel to conduct adequate school lunch programs.

Resolution No. 295 2010 National Convention

Sickle Cell Anemia

Encourages distribution of information currently known about Sickle Cell Anemia, suitable development and use of screening procedures, adequate counseling for afflicted children, federal funding for medically indigent children, and legislation/funding to make screening for Sickle Cell disease among potential victims a requirement for admission into public schools.

Resolution No. 279 2010 National Convention

CHILD SAFETY AND WELFARE

Adequate Foster Care

Urges departments to encourage state legislators to improve services for children living in foster homes; urges Post to volunteer their talents and energies in behalf of foster children and to make their communities aware of the vital role that adequate foster care services play in enabling these children to develop into mature, responsible and productive adults.

Resolution No. 297 2010 National Convention

Admission of Children of United States Citizens

Calls for legislative action to provide equal treatment in admission to the United States of all children of American citizens.

Resolution No.283 2010 National Convention

Bill of Rights for Foster Children

Formally endorses the Bill of Rights for Foster Children as developed by the National Action for Foster Children Committee.

Resolution No. 34 Spring NEC – 1974

Child Maltreatment

Urges school educators, coaches, school administrators and others responsible for children in any capacity to familiarize themselves with the warning signs of all forms of child maltreatment, and report suspected maltreatment, and refer these children to the appropriate child protective service in their community. Encourages the organization, at all levels, to educate and inform the public about the detrimental effects of child maltreatment.

Resolution No. 292 2010 National Convention

Child Safety

Authorizes the cooperation of The American Legion with national safety organizations to the end that The American Legion can maintain an effective role in the promotion of adequate child safety programs; Encourages posts and departments to provide leadership on organized safety commissions and actively promote child safety.

Resolution No. 293 2010 National Convention

Children in Pornographic Literature

Encourages state legislatures to evaluate and make appropriate amendments to existing laws aimed at individuals involved in the child pornography business. Urges the strengthening of existing federal law to make penalties severe enough to eliminate the production, distribution and sale of materials that use children in sexually explicit scenes, and to fund efforts, when necessary, to accomplish these goals.

Resolution No. 284 2010 National Convention

Childcare Services

Urges posts and departments to cooperate to the fullest extent with state, community, public and private agencies with childcare responsibilities to the end that licensed childcare facilities will be available to all children in our nation, that safe and consistent standards are established for all licensed childcare facilities, and to raise the level of understanding among the general public about the needs of adequate childcare services.

Resolution No. 285 2010 National Convention

Fireworks Safety

Urges posts and departments to educate communities, parents, and children about fireworks safety and encourages children and families to enjoy fireworks displays conducted by professionals, rather than purchase fireworks for private use.

Resolution No. 33 Spring NEC – 2006

Intellectual Disabilities

Affirms The American Legion's support of the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities and encourages all levels of the organization to help alert the public through awareness and education programs designed to change the negative attitudes and prejudices concerning our nation's intellectually disabled children.

Resolution No. 294 2010 National Convention

Missing Children

Calls for departments and posts to encourage companies and organizations in their communities to continue and increase their efforts to locate missing children. Urges posts to provide or assist in making available child identification activities to give parents a means of providing this information to authorities should the need arise.

Resolution No. 291 2010 National Convention

Production, Sale and Distribution of Obscene Literature

Strongly opposes any attempt to weaken our present laws governing the penalties for the production, sale and distribution of pornographic or obscene materials.

Resolution No. 281 2010 National Convention

Protect Children from the Unrestricted Media

Supports appropriate state and federal legislation to restrict the excessive use of violence, vulgarity and other forms of moral depravation in movies, TV programs and the Internet; calls for departments and posts to provide leadership in conducting awareness campaigns about the potential dangers of the Internet and other forms of electronic media to children.

Resolution No. 277 2010 National Convention

Sexual Exploitation of Children

Supports appropriate state and federal legislation aimed at the prevention, investigation and prosecution of child sexual exploitation. Urges post and department to raise community awareness and cooperation with law enforcement agencies, government, and other organization to empower the public to enforce a zero tolerance policy regarding child sexual exploitation.

Resolution No. 289 2010 National Convention

Support For Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

Encourages posts to assist their local CASA Programs and to recruit volunteers to assist children and youth in the juvenile justice system. Furthermore, Post are encouraged recruit qualified Legionaries as volunteers and to raise community awareness concerning CASA.

Resolution No. 35 Spring NEC – 2009

Support for Special Olympics

Authorizes Special Olympics as a national children and youth project; encourages all levels of the Legion to participate in their local programs to assist in providing year-round sports training and athletic competition to increase quality of life opportunities for children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

Resolution No. 33 Fall NEC – 2007

Teenage Pregnancy

Urges posts and departments to support and cooperate with organizations and agencies that seek to educate teenagers on the advantages of delaying pregnancy, and to seek the cooperation of existing national, state and local organizations to help with this problem.

Resolution No. 290 2010 National Convention

Youth Suicide Prevention Education

Urges all departments and posts to encourage the school officials in their states and communities to incorporate youth suicide prevention programs and activities into their regular school curriculum and encourage local government to mandate such programs. They also are encouraged to raise the public's awareness of the "warning signs" of youth suicide.

Resolution No. 58 Spring NEC –2003

DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE PREVENTION

Alcohol and Youth

Urges all departments and posts to alert parents, teachers, and other school authorities in their communities to the tragic results of alcohol abuse by youngsters; and to cooperate with other organizations and agencies concerned with this problem by discussing, formulating and disseminating the real facts about alcohol, the most threatening drug to our leaders of tomorrow.

Resolution No. 45 Spring NEC – 2000

Drug Trafficking

Urges the President and Congress of the United States to fully support with adequate funding all border state federal and military drug trafficking prevention programs.

Resolution No. 288 2010 National Convention

General Drug Abuse Statement

Urges all levels of the organization to continue their efforts to reduce drug abuse. Affirms support of the Office of National Drug Control Policy and asks that the Legion cooperate with the Federal and State Governments to change or amend policies as necessary. Supports initiatives designed to educate youth about drugs. Seeks the involvement of responsible citizens in broad prevention efforts and for abusers to obtain assistance to overcome their addiction.

Resolution No. 282 2010 National Convention

Minimum Drinking Age

Urges all departments to strongly oppose the lowering of the minimum drinking age requirements of their respective states and voice their concern and support for the re-establishment, where necessary, of a minimum drinking age of 21.

Resolution No. 40 Spring NEC – 2000

FAMILIES

Marriage

Recognizes that the natural family is the fundamental unit, inscribed in human nature and centered on the voluntary union of a man and a woman in a lifelong covenant of marriage; opposes all efforts to undermine, alter, or otherwise corrupt the institution of marriage; urges the Congress and President of the United States to ensure the institution of marriage is preserved, either through legislation or a constitutional amendment.

Resolution No. 280 2010 National Convention

National Family Week

Urges the President of the United States and Congress to establish "National Family Week" during the Thanksgiving Holiday week as an annual observance.

Resolution No .296 2010 National Convention

Operation: Military Kids

Encourages departments and posts to work with and support the joint effort of the Department of the Army and United States Department of Agriculture, Operation: Military Kids, to contribute to the well being of children of military personnel.

Resolution No. 30 Spring NEC – 2005

JUVENILE JUSTICE

Support For The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Urges the President and the Congress meet or exceed current funding levels for the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Resolution No. 298 2010 National Convention

Violence and Vandalism in the Schools

Recommends that school boards and state education agencies develop a balanced and effective program, and provide community support to reduce and prevent violence and vandalism in education institutions through “zero tolerance” policies. Urges local law enforcement to implement effective programs for the amelioration of juvenile delinquency in coordination with the Department of Education, community citizenry and other agencies within the criminal justice system. Urges posts to assist those in the educational community and criminal justice system to join together in efforts to reduce the development and prevailing patterns of juvenile delinquency in schools and our communities

Resolution No. 36 Spring NEC – 2006

OTHER AND MISCELLANEOUS

Authorization to Conduct National Children & Youth Conference

Authorizes the National Commission on Children & Youth to conduct a Children & Youth Conference for department Children & Youth representatives, beginning in the fall of 2007, and annually thereafter.

Resolution No. 44 Spring NEC – 2006

Child Welfare Foundation Participation with the Combined Federal Campaign

Authorizes The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation to participate in the Combined Federal Campaign.

Resolution No. 31 Fall NEC – 1994

Statement of Policy Regarding Temporary Financial Assistance Program

Restates the operational policy of the Temporary Financial Assistance Program of The American Legion as administered by the Americanism and Children & Youth Division.

Resolution No. 27 Spring NEC – 1990

Addition to Temporary Financial Assistance Statement of Policy

Amends the definition of an eligible child to include a child of a non-veteran who is in the legal custody and living in the household of an eligible veteran, e.g. a grandparent. The resolution further stipulates that, in the case of joint custody, the resources of both households shall be considered when determining the needs of the child.

Resolution No. 38 Spring NEC – 2000