

Michigan PTA Centennial
May 19, 2018

WHEREAS, The Michigan Parent Teacher Association has acted locally, regionally, and nationally in supporting family engagement and working on behalf of all children and families; it is a time to reflect and take pride in its numerous accomplishments and celebrate 100 years of being a powerful voice for all children, a trusted resource for parents, and a strong advocate for public education; and

WHEREAS, The Michigan PTA has been instrumental in establishing programs and services to improve children's lives, including but not limited to advancing parent and family engagement, the creation of kindergarten, advancing child-labor laws and public health services, hot-and-healthy lunch programs, the juvenile justice system, mandatory immunizations, arts in education, and school safety; and

WHEREAS, The founders of the Parent Teacher Association (PTA), Phoebe Apperson Hearst and Alice McLellan Birney, and the founder of Georgia's Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers, Selena Sloan Butler, were women of imagination and courage who understood the power of individual action, worked beyond the accepted barriers of their day, and took action to literally change the world; and

WHEREAS, These remarkable individuals had a simple idea: to improve the lives and futures of all children; and as much as other conditions in the nation have changed, that idea has not, as PTAs keep it alive; and

WHEREAS, Founded in Washington, D.C., as the National Congress of Mothers, the Parent Teacher Association celebrated the 120th anniversary of its founding on February 17, 2017; since its inception in 1897, the organization has stood firm on its purpose of advocating for the education, health, and well-being of all children, and in recognition thereof, it is indeed deserving of the appreciation and recognition of the public; and

WHEREAS, The organization meeting of the Michigan Congress in Battle Creek took place May 19, 1918. Mrs. Charles Stewart of Battle Creek was elected as the first president, adopting a resolution urging the Michigan legislature to provide adequate health training in all of the schools of the state; and

WHEREAS, Today, PTA is the largest volunteer child-advocacy organization in the United States, and its members represent the ethnic diversity of the nation and come from the ranks of traditional families, single-parent households, blended families, grandparents, and other caring adults who together continue to serve as the conscience of the country for children and youth; and

WHEREAS, PTA plays a significant role in the success of Livonia Public Schools and the experiences of our children and families who make up its community, through programs such as Reflections, Masterworks, Youth Making a Difference, Founders Day, and Staff Appreciation Week, as well as its members volunteering countless hours of service and support in our schools,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That May 19, 2018, is recognized as Michigan PTA Day, commending the organization on the occasion of its 100th anniversary.

Tammy Bonifield, Board Secretary