

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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Washington State PTA Stands in Solidarity with Asian American Community

Tacoma, WA (March 23, 2021): Washington State PTA (WSPTA) recognizes and acknowledges that all children are affected by violence against our fellow citizens. Last week’s events in Atlanta add to a long history of abuse and inequity in our country.

National PTA President Leslie Boggs stated, “National PTA condemns the shootings in Atlanta and other recent violence against Asian Americans. Our association stands firmly against racism in all forms and denounces all racial violence in our country. The acts of hate have a profound effect on the communities impacted, and our nation must do better.”

Believing strongly in equity, justice, respect and inclusion, WSPTA stands with our sister state congresses and National PTA, as we remain focused on the well-being of all children. Again, we have an opportunity to support conversations at home and in our school communities that will lead to anti-racist cultures in our educational system. Home is often the best place to initiate uncomfortable, but critical conversations about our respective identities and implicit biases. These can lead to discussions about how we can improve or remove the gaps in opportunities, achievement, and experiences that are the realities faced by many students and families every day.

Boggs also stated, “Our transcendent goal has always been to change the lives of children for the better and we will continue to ensure our society values and protects every child. We encourage PTA members and all concerned citizens to speak out and demand that every child be afforded the opportunity to make their potential a reality. Together, we can move above and beyond the perceived division of our diverse experiences and build a shared experience—the experience of working together as human beings, intent on building a better nation and world for our children’s future.”

WSPTA President Janice Kutzera shared, “Our members intentionally created a resolution emphasizing the need to end institutional and systemic racism. This resolution will guide this important work from the local to state level. Our vision and mission are guided by our long-held belief that every person’s well-being, education and safety should have equal value in our society.”

Grassroots advocacy, our association’s hallmark, compels us to continue advocating for children, and we welcome all voices. We recognize that, even as we advocate for racial equity, we need to learn and evolve, and we are committed to this work. When we know better, we can do better. We invite you to join us in the conversation.

About Washington State PTA: Washington State PTA is the state’s oldest and largest child advocacy organization founded in 1905 by Abby Williams Hill of Tacoma, an artist who saw the need for an organization to support Washington’s children. Thanks to her leadership and vision—and current members who continue to carry her vision forward—Washington State PTA has been a leading voice for children in Washington for more than 110 years. To learn more about Washington State PTA, please visit www.wastatepta.org.

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