

1 Resolution #LR4 (13) –2013 Annual Leadership Forum
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3 TITLE: Promoting Education of Families about the Culture of Violence in
4 the Media and its effects on Children
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6 SPONSORED BY: Connecticut Chapter
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8 DATE: March 11, 2013
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10 DISPOSITION: ADOPTED as amended
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12 Whereas, violence is a major public health problem affecting children; and
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14 Whereas, there is an increase in the acceptance of violence in our culture as
15 seen in television, movies, and video games; and
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17 Whereas, pediatricians are in a unique position to influence families and
18 communities to change this acceptance of violence, therefore be it
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20 RESOLVED, that the Academy be a leader in an initiative to reduce the
21 pervasiveness and glamorization of violence in all forms, including
22 gun violence, and violence in gaming and the media
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24 RESOLVED, that the Academy work with the appropriate councils, sections, and
25 committees to consolidate the various materials already existing
26 and to develop any necessary new materials to address the
27 increased acceptance of violence in our culture and once
28 consolidated and developed should be easily found on the AAP
29 website for members to use in their interactions with patients,
30 families, schools, and communities to help spread the message.
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32 FISCAL NOTE: Unknown
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34 REFER TO: 2013 Annual Leadership Forum
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41 BACKGROUND
42 INFORMATION: Reason for late submission
43 This resolution is late because the precipitating event occurred
44 after December 1, 2012. It needs to be addressed at the 2013 ALF
45 because now is the time to stand united with our pediatric
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colleagues and the families of Newtown. This is a unique opportunity. The public is more inclined than ever to listen to our message. We should add our voice now to those promoting change to current societal norms that glorify guns and violence. The cost of implementing this resolution is unknown as it would depend upon the scope and the level of collaboration with other organizations and the need for the development of new materials.

Background Information from the Author

On December 14, 2012, the entire world was horrified to learn of the killing of 20 children and 7 adults in a Newtown, CT elementary school by a 20-year-old man using an assault weapon. This resolution is the result of discussions, consultation, and collaboration with our colleagues in Newtown and throughout CT. They expressed the need to address the causes of this and other similar tragedies and stop this national epidemic of violence. There are a number of proposed bills in CT and other states related to gun safety and improving mental health care that are important, but this is not enough. The discussion kept returning to the underlying acceptance of violence in our culture and the urgent need to do something about it in an effective, coordinated, systematic way. This is a major public health issue and should be addressed in the same way as other epidemics including tobacco, alcohol, and motor vehicle safety.

The pediatricians of the Newtown area and the United Physicians of Newtown have requested that their voices be heard at this Annual Leadership Forum.

Also refer to unitedphysiciansofnewtown.org