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## **Montana PTA's Position Statement Refundable Tax Credit for Education Expenses for Non-Public School**

Chartered 95 years ago, Montana PTA is the largest volunteer child advocacy organization in the state of Montana. We represent approximately 6,500 parents and child advocates in local PTA units across our vast state. We are strictly a non-partisan organization whose sole purpose is to promote the welfare of children and youth in schools. Montana PTA's mission statement is: We empower communities to work together for children and families through education, leadership, communication and advocacy. Montana PTA's vision statement is: "Montanan's working together for the future well-being of all children."

Today's public schools are struggling to carry out basic educational services. Yet demands are being placed on schools to improve student achievement, without sufficient resources being provided to support these charges.

The PTA has played an important role, since its founding, in assuring that public funds are used only for public schools accountable to taxpayers. Montana PTA realizes that the public school system must adapt to the needs of children and society, but does not believe that tuition tax credits, deductions and vouchers provide viable means to an improved climate of education. In fact, the Montana PTA feels that doing so would undermine the system of public education in Montana.

Therefore, the Montana PTA is resolved to oppose tuition tax credits, tax deductions for education related expenses and vouchers for educational funding.