



A Statement from Texas PTA President Sheri Doss

June 3, 2020

This year, Texas PTA surpassed 520,000 members. With this size comes diversity as big and beautiful as our state itself. From the Panhandle to the Gulf Coast, we are people of many colors and languages. Our differences are celebrated and together we make up a strong, thriving association. But we are not impenetrable to heartache. The death of George Floyd and recent violence against people of color has sent shock waves across the country and into our communities.

As President, I have a responsibility to our members, to the millions of Texas students we serve, and to the legacy we continue to build. Texas PTA believes in justice, equality, and civil rights for all people. At this time, the death of George Floyd has compelled us to openly condemn these acts of violence specifically against Black Americans. Our position directly aligns with a core value of PTA – “Diversity: We acknowledge the potential of everyone without regard.”

PTA in our nation is steeped in nearly 125 years of history – most of it good, some of it never to be repeated again. We celebrate our beginnings, but we do not remain in the past. Texas PTA continues to evolve. We listen and learn from one another. We use our differences to strengthen the association, and by doing so, ensure the next 100 years of hard work for our students and schools. This is the only way forward.

We must view and treat one another as equals. From the pulpit to the streets of America, this has been shouted for decades. But we will continue saying it out loud because it bears repeating until everyone treats one another with respect regardless of our differences.

Texas PTA will continue to better the association, never standing still, and require the more than 2,300 campus PTAs and 60 district PTAs across the state to follow our lead. We are not only role models for one another; our children are looking to us. We must practice civility now. Desmond Tutu once said, “Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.”

At the start of the year, Texas PTA began to work on a statewide campaign. We are breathing new life into our beloved “back the future.” While updating the look, one important message remained clear – PTA is for everyone. Regardless of who you are and how you look, if you care about Texas students and schools, you are PTA. We will be introducing the refreshed campaign during the 2020-2021 school year in the fall with a grand unveiling at LAUNCH 2020. We will work to ensure our Leaders use the campaign to its fullest extent on campus and in their communities.

As PTA remains a diverse and vibrant group of people, we will celebrate our differences and never lose sight of what brought us together, our children. They are the focus of all that we do. What we believe and how we behave must always be in their best interest.

Sheri Doss
Texas PTA President