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2 **RESOLUTION TO ENCOURAGE THE ELIMINATION OF CORPORAL**
3 **PUNISHMENT IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**
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5 **WHEREAS**, Twenty states permit the corporal punishment of students in public schools;
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8 **WHEREAS**, In those twenty states, the U.S. Department of Education statistics show
9 that over two hundred twenty thousand school children are subjected to corporal
10 punishment, with over twenty thousand school children requiring medical attention due to
11 the resulting abrasions, bruising, severe muscle injury, hematomas, whiplash damage,
12 life-threatening hemorrhages, and other medical complications; and
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14 **WHEREAS**, hundreds of studies by medical doctors and social scientists have shown
15 that the outcomes associated this violent disciplinary method actually lower students'
16 academic achievement and have long-term detrimental effects on their well being,
17 including increased childhood and adult aggression and criminal behavior and decreased
18 child and adult mental health such as depression, anxiety disorders, suicidal tendencies,
19 and alcoholism; and
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21 **WHEREAS**, gross racial disparity exists in the execution of corporal punishment of
22 public schoolchildren; and
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24 **WHEREAS**, public schoolchildren with disabilities are also subjected to corporal
25 punishment at disproportionately high rates, approximately twice the rate of the general
26 student population in some states; and
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28 **WHEREAS**, behavioral interventions for children must promote the right of all children
29 to be treated with dignity and ensure a safe and productive learning environment; and
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31 **WHEREAS**, safe, effective, evidence-based strategies are available to support children
32 who display challenging behaviors in school settings; and
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34 **WHEREAS**, according to the Department of Education's Technical Assistance Center on
35 School-Wide Positive Behavior Interventions and Support, outcomes associated with
36 school-wide positive behavior support include: decreased office discipline referrals,
37 increased instructional time, decreased administrator time spent on discipline issues,
38 efficient and effective use of scarce resources, and increased perception of school safety
39 and sustainability through a team approach; and
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42 **WHEREAS**, children in 30 states are already protected from corporal punishment and
43 corporal punishment is prohibited in other settings, such as hospitals, health facilities,
44 Head Start programs, and nonmedical community-based facilities; and
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46 **WHEREAS**, the National Lieutenant Governors Association is committed to safe and
47 nurturing learning environments for both students and teachers, this resolution does not
48 call for restricting a teacher, other certified employee, or any other person providing
49 services to students from using reasonable force, as needed, to maintain safety of other
50 students, school personnel, or persons, or for the purposes of self defense or the defense
51 of property so long as such force is not used for the purposes of providing discipline to
52 students; and
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54 **WHEREAS**, the National Lieutenant Governor's Association is committed to defending
55 and promoting the interests of our nation's children and engendering the highest quality
56 educational environment under which our children may achieve their full potential;
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58 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NLGA encourages state and
59 territorial governments to consider the elimination of corporal punishments in our schools
60 and support and seek policies and laws that engenders respect and learning; and
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62 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NLGA will promote cooperation between
63 state and territorial governments and local educational agencies and schools in
64 identifying and implementing effective evidence-based models to prevent and reduce--

- 65 (A) Aversive behavior interventions that compromise health and safety; and
 - 66 (B) Physical, emotional, or psychological abuse.
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68 Sponsored by: Lt. Governor Anthony Brown, Maryland
69 Co-Sponsor: Lt. Governor Rick Sheehy, Nebraska
70 Lt. Governor Jennifer Carroll, Florida