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**Practice**

1 Resolution # 54 (06) – 2006/2007 Annual Leadership Forum  
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4 TITLE: Critical Action to Support the Children and Adolescents of  
5 American Military Families  
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7 SUBMITTED BY: Uniformed Services West Chapter  
8 Uniformed Services Section  
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10 DATE: December 14, 2006  
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12 Whereas, the American Academy of Pediatrics has acknowledged and  
13 advocated for the unique needs of children and adolescents of  
14 military families during the Global War on Terrorism through  
15 adoption of previous resolutions, grant support, and Web site  
16 development support; and  
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18 Whereas, there have been more than 2,900 combat related deaths and more  
19 than 20,000 significant wounds and injuries sustained by American  
20 military service members since the beginning of the Global War on  
21 Terrorism; and  
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23 Whereas, a recent study (Hoge *JAMA* Mar 06) reported that the prevalence  
24 of reporting a mental health problem was 19.1% among service  
25 members returning from Iraq (11.3% in those returning from  
26 Afghanistan) and that 35% of Iraq war veterans accessed mental  
27 health services in the year after returning home and that combat  
28 soldiers and Marines surveyed 3 to 4 months after returning from  
29 Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) deployment reported 12% to 20%  
30 meeting criteria for post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) (Hoge  
31 *N Engl J Med* 2004); and  
32

33 Whereas, many children and adolescents of American military families have  
34 been noted by pediatricians and other youth-serving professionals  
35 to experience significant personal stress or an exacerbation of a  
36 mental health or family function problem leading up to, during,  
37 and after military deployment; and  
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39 Whereas, many children and adolescents of American military families  
40 receive primary care, mental health care, and social and emotional  
41 support from civilian pediatricians and youth-serving professionals  
42 who are likely to be unfamiliar with the unique culture and stresses  
43 of military service, therefore be it  
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49 RESOLVED, that the Academy create a policy statement that addresses the  
50 emotional needs and stress challenges of family on the well being  
51 of children and adolescents in military families experiencing  
52 separation, injury or death, and be it further

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54 RESOLVED, that the Academy educate pediatricians and youth-serving  
55 professionals about the unique culture and needs of children and  
56 adolescents in military families.

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58 REFER TO: 2007 Annual Leadership Forum

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68 BACKGROUND

69 INFORMATION: Background Information from the Committee on Psychosocial  
70 Aspects of Child and Family Health

71 The Committee on Psychosocial Aspects of Child and Family  
72 Health (COPACFH) is working on a new clinical report on the  
73 effects of military deployment on children and families with the  
74 Section on Uniformed Services, which will address the emotional  
75 stress experienced by these families and will provide guidance to  
76 primary care physicians on the unique needs of these families.