

Dear Fellow PTA Member:

Welcome to your state convention!

Whether this is your first or 15th time attending, I want to say thank you for coming. The world is always changing, and so we must adapt and grow with it to adequately advocate for our nation's children. Your attendance is a testament to your desire to do so, and I am grateful.

I am also excited for you! State conventions are a great opportunity to take your PTA work and your own skills to the next level. Here, you'll connect with and learn from the leaders who are shaping your children's lives today and the opportunities they will have in the future.

You'll also gain critical knowledge—how to effectively and cooperatively influence the decisions that affect children at our schools, throughout our districts, within our states, across our country and in some cases, across our world.

That's not hyperbole. As One PTA, we've been changing children's lives for more than 120 years. We've kept America's children safe with the enactment of child labor laws, gave them a head start with universal kindergarten, made sure they were fed through the National School Lunch Program and right now, we're making sure families are involved in improving K-12 education with the implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act.

It's an exciting and important time to be a PTA advocate. I implore you to embrace everything your state convention has to offer, and to share everything you learn here with your community when you get home.

Look around you. Everyone here shares your passion and drive to support all children. This is your opportunity to make long-lasting relationships and strengthen the network of voices that creates the One PTA voice.

Thank you for your continued support as we help build the path to equitable education. I truly appreciate all you do for PTA and for our nation's children. Have a great convention!

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura M Bay". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Laura Bay

National PTA President