WHEREAS, the Prison Litigation Reform Act was enacted by Congress in 1996 to eliminate the overwhelming number of frivolous lawsuits that were being filed by our nation’s inmates; and

WHEREAS, 141 Cong. Rec. 27,042 (1995) states that “…in 1994, over 39,000 lawsuits were filed in Federal Courts, a staggering 15 percent over the number filed the previous year. The vast majority were completely without merit”; and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court in Porter v. Nussle described the purpose of PLRA, in part, as two-fold: “to reduce the quantity and improve the quality of prisoner suits;” and

WHEREAS, the analysis of statistical data on the impact of PLRA is a necessary first step before the recommendation of any formal changes; and now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the American Correctional Association continues to support the Prison Litigation Reform Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the American Correctional Association requests the appropriate U.S. government entity perform outcome-based research on the effects of PLRA.

This resolution was adopted by the American Correctional Association Delegate Assembly at the Winter Conference in Tampa, Fla., Jan. 24, 2007. It was last reviewed and reaffirmed at the 2019 Winter Conference in New Orleans, LA on January 15, 2019.