

TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF ADVOCATING NATIONWIDE CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR NURSES

SUBMITTED BY: Mineral Area College Hills

WHEREAS, according to the American Nurses Association (ANA) Code of Ethics, continual personal growth, particularly in knowledge and skill, requires a commitment to lifelong learning, including but not limited to continuing education, networking with professional colleagues, self-study, professional reading, certification, and seeking advanced degrees; and

WHEREAS, the State Boards of Nursing for Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Maine, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin have no continuing education requirements for registered nurses; and

WHEREAS, states with mandatory continuing education require between five hours over four years to fifteen hours per year; and

WHEREAS, knowledge learned in basic nursing education programs quickly becomes obsolete, therefore lifelong learning is essential because of the rapid changes in our healthcare delivery system and the changing roles of nursing within that system; and

WHEREAS, continuing education in the form of contact hours increases and maintains competence by 30-31%; and

WHEREAS, the nurse who is possibly the most in need of continuing education to remain current in nursing practice is least likely to be a participant; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) support nationwide continuing education requirements for all nurses; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage its constituents to pursue continuing nursing education whether required by their state or not; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA publish an article in *Imprint* supporting continuing education, if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA send copies of this resolution to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the American Nurses Association, the National League for Nursing, the National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, the American Nurses Credentialing Center, each state board of nursing, and any others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.