

**TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED AWARENESS OF ROSA’S LAW WHICH CHANGES THE TERM “MENTALLY RETARDED” TO “INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY”**

**SUBMITTED BY: Regis Student Nurses Association**

WHEREAS, "*Rosa's Law*," signed by President Obama October 6, 2010 changes references in many Federal statutes that currently refer to "mental retardation" to refer, instead, to "intellectual disability"; and

WHEREAS, the *DSM-IV* defines mental retardation as: “significantly sub average general intellectual functioning (Criterion A) that is accompanied by significant limitations in adaptive functioning in at least two of the following skill areas: communication, self-care, home living, social/interpersonal skills, use of community resources, self-direction, functional academic skills, work, leisure, health, and safety (Criterion B). The onset must occur before age 18 years (Criterion C). Mental Retardation has many different etiologies and may be seen as a final common pathway of various pathological processes that affect the functioning of the central nervous system”; and

WHEREAS, according to the World Health Organization “up to three percent or almost 200 million people of the world’s population have intellectual disabilities – this is the largest disability population in the world.”; and

WHEREAS, the American Association of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities’ response to the proposed *DSM-V* definition of intellectual disability states: “Nationally and internationally the term ‘intellectual disability’ is replacing the older term ‘mental retardation.’ As widely accepted, the term ID is the preferred term since it reflects the changed construct of disability, aligns better with current professional practices that focus on functional behaviors and contextual factors, provides a logical basis for individualized supports due to its basis in a social-ecological framework, is less offensive to persons with the disability, and is more consistent with international terminology”; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses’ Association (NSNA) encourage its constituents to promote awareness of the Special Olympics campaign by signing the pledge to “Spread the Word to End the R-Word”; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage publishers of nursing textbooks to utilize this updated terminology as new editions become published; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA publish an informative article on this topic in *Imprint*, if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA send copies of this resolution to the American Nurses Association, the National League for Nursing, the American Association of Colleges and Nursing, the National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, the American Academy of Nursing, the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, the American Psychiatric Association, and any others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors for the purpose of unifying the voice of nursing in support of using the term “intellectual disability” in place of “mental retardation”.