

TOPIC: INCREASED AWARENESS OF NATIONAL AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) INSTALLATION AND TRAINING IN ALL K THRU 12 SCHOOLS FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF

SUBMITTED BY: Drexel University Student Nurses Association

WHEREAS, “Sudden cardiac death accounts for approximately 5% of all deaths in children and there are approximately 500 episodes annually of unexpected SCD in children and adolescents in the United States alone”; and

WHEREAS, “For patients in ventricular fibrillation (VF) or pulseless ventricular tachycardia, the greatest single factor related to overall survival is the time interval from collapse to defibrillation. The timely application of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) has been shown to significantly increase survival for victims of out of hospital cardiac arrest”; and

WHEREAS, “Survival following out-of-hospital cardiac arrest has been greatly improved by lay rescuer and public access defibrillation programmes designed to shorten the time interval from SCA to shock delivery”; and

WHEREAS, “Survival after out-of-hospital cardiac arrest increased 25% when laypersons initiated CPR and AED within 3 minutes of a witnessed cardiac arrest”; and

WHEREAS, “The AHA recommended AEDs be placed in schools with a reasonable probability of a cardiac arrest over the next 5 years, those with any student at high risk for cardiac arrest, and those with an emergency call to shock time greater than 5 minutes”; and

WHEREAS, “The benefits of school AED programs are self-evident in that they do save the lives of both the children/adolescent group and adults, the school is a public-gathering place during school hours as well as after school hours, and there seems to be logical benefit to training the community, including our youth, in the performance of CPR and the use of AEDs”; and

WHEREAS, “A school AED program has the opportunity of creating “a new community” of individuals, including students trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and AED use”; and

WHEREAS, “A recent study showed that untrained sixth-grade students performed almost as quickly as trained paramedics using AED in a mock cardiac arrest scenario with only a 23-s [seconds] difference in mean time to defibrillation”; and

WHEREAS, “... nurses should partner with patient advocacy groups and local communities to educate the general public about SCD in the young and encourage them to support the placement of AEDs and emergency response systems in as many schools as possible”; therefore be it that the National Student Nurses’ Association (NSNA) and its constituents support and advocate for AED installation and training for staff on the use of AEDs and that students receive age appropriate education on how to respond to medical emergencies, in all schools nationally as part of community health projects; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA educate its constituents about AED use in schools through publications in *Imprint*, convention educational workshops, if feasible, and any other means deemed appropriate by the NSNA; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA send a copy of this resolution to the Air and Surface Transport Nurses Association, the American Academy of Nursing, the American Public Health Association, the American Nurses Association, the Emergency Nurses Association, the National Association of School Nurses, the National League for Nursing, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, the Association of Community Health Nursing Educators, the Preventative Cardiovascular Nurses’ Association, and any others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.