

**TOPIC: AWARENESS FOR POTENTIAL FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWNS OF OUR NATION AND POTENTIAL NATIONWIDE IMPACT**

**SUBMITTED BY: NSNA 2011 Resolutions Committee**

WHEREAS, in 2008, the National Student Nurses' Association House of Delegates passed the resolution titled "In support of increasing the political awareness of nursing students"; and

WHEREAS, the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 is a United States federal law that governs the role of the Congress in the United States budget process, which includes 9 Titles. Of which, Title III governs the procedures by which Congress annually adopts a budget resolution, a concurrent resolution setting fiscal policy that is not signed by the President. In turn, the budget resolution sets limits on revenues and spending that govern Congress; and

WHEREAS, "publicly, the president said [on April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011] the mechanism of shutting down government operations has started in case a deal proves elusive"; and; and

WHEREAS, there are several common government program and agencies would be affected by a federal government shutdown. According to the 2011 Congressional Research Service Report for Congress, these include: the closing of national parks and monuments; suspension of passport and visa issuance, except for emergency situations; closure of the IRS while the April 15th tax deadline is maintained, although Americans would still have to pay their taxes but could see delays in paper tax return processing and refunds associated with those returns; the U.S. Small Business Administration would suspend approval of applications for business loan guarantees and direct loans to small businesses; the Federal Housing Association would be forced to suspend approvals for new loan guarantees during the peak-home buying season; our Uniformed military personnel would continue to serve, but they would not get paid for their work until the government reopened; and a number of Pentagon civilians, State Department officials and staff would likely be dismissed; and

WHEREAS, in regards to the general programs affected, there are also many specific health related impacts to consider if a federal government shutdown occurs. According to the Congressional Research Service Report for Congress in February 2011, these include: the decline in accepting new patients or beginning new clinical trials by the National Institute of Health; delay in acceptance of newly eligible Medicare recipients affecting hundreds of thousands of Americans; the Center for Disease Control hotlines will not be answered and will no longer be conducting disease surveillance including potential epidemics such as influenza and other infectious disease; the EPA will halt monitoring of air pollution; toxic waste clean-up could stop in many locations; and a delay in processing of applicants regarding food stamps affecting the health and welfare of low-income families; and

WHEREAS, in the 1995-1996 government shut down, "all employees of the Department of Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) employees were furloughed and 53,000 recipients of BIA basic needs assistance payments were delayed", which would impact an already disadvantaged population; and

WHEREAS, with the two shut downs lasting 27 days in 1995, the cost to the government was an "estimated 1.4 billion dollars"; which occurred during a period of time when the United States was experiencing "it's longest period of financial growth"; and

WHEREAS, "most government health services are administered by the Department of Health and Human Services" and during the shut down, as many as 62% of the employees would not be allowed to work; and

WHEREAS, a government shutdown would have long-term effects on the economy at a time in which our own economy is in a period of recovery; therefore be it  
RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) encourage its constituents to contact their state senators and congressman during times of financial crisis; and be it further  
RESOLVED, that the NSNA promote political awareness through postings on NSNA Facebook page for immediate posting regarding current events, 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 of Nursing, the National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, the American Medical Association, The White House, the United States House of Representatives, the United States Senate, the National Institute of Health, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, state and chapter student nursing organizations, state and chapter professional nursing organizations and any others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.