

TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF ONGOING AND INCREASED AWARENESS OF NEEDLE STICK INJURIES IN THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

SUBMITTED BY: Pittsburg State University Nursing Students

WHEREAS, needlestick injuries continue to occur despite passage of public law 106-430 Needlestick Safety and Prevention Act in 2000; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that 5.6 million workers in the health care industry and related occupations are at risk of occupational exposure to blood borne pathogens, including human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), hepatitis B (HBV), hepatitis C (HCV), and others; and

WHEREAS, each year, hospital-based health care workers sustain an estimated 384,000 percutaneous (skin puncture) injuries from needles and other sharp devices, or more than 1,000 injuries per day; and

WHEREAS, when accounting for both hospitals and other health care settings, such as private clinics, home care operations, and long-term care facilities, studies have estimated that between 600,000 and 800,000 needlestick and other percutaneous injuries occur annually to health care workers; and

WHEREAS, in a survey that was conducted by the American Nurses Association in 2008 it was reported that nearly two-thirds of nurses reported being accidentally stuck; and

WHEREAS, the CDC estimates that between 62 percent and 88 percent of sharps injuries can be prevented by using safer devices; and

WHEREAS, a CDC analysis shows the most prevalent causes of injuries as a result of a needlestick incident were manipulating needle in patient (27%), improper disposal/disposal related (22%), cleanup (11%), handling/passing device during or after use (10%); therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) demonstrate its ongoing commitment to increase the awareness of needlestick injuries in the health care system by providing education at the NSNA's National Convention and MidYear conference in break-out sessions, if feasible and that the NSNA promote break-out sessions at the state level, if feasible; and be it further

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

RESOLVED, that the NSNA send a copy 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 Sigma Theta Tau International, the Health Resources and Services Administration, and all others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.