

**TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF AMERICAN RED CROSS DISASTER TRAINING TO BE INCLUDED IN PLANNED NURSING CURRICULA**

**SUBMITTED BY: Kansas Association of Nursing Students**

- WHEREAS, the 2002 House of Delegates supported disaster preparedness in nursing curricula; and  
WHEREAS, the 2001 House of Delegates supported increased involvement of nursing students in the American Red Cross; and  
WHEREAS, the American Red Cross is a humanitarian organization led by more than one million volunteers, guided by its Congressional Charter and the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross Movement, with Disaster Health Services designed to provide relief to victims of disasters and help people prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies; and  
WHEREAS, the American Red Cross Disaster Health Services provide care in accordance with professional nursing standards defined by the American Nurses Association and American Red Cross regulations and procedures. Professional skills are adapted to meet the medical, nursing, and emotional needs evolving from a disaster situation; and  
WHEREAS, each year, the American Red Cross responds to more than 67,000 disasters, including house or apartment fires (the majority of disaster responses), hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, tornadoes, hazardous materials spills, transportation accidents, explosions, and other natural and man-made disasters; and  
WHEREAS, nursing students may work with Disaster Health Services when certain American Red Cross rules and regulations have been met; and  
WHEREAS, there are over 950 local chapters of the American Red Cross across the United States, many of which rely on nursing student volunteers to serve in vital roles and increase their capacity for service delivery; and  
WHEREAS, the American Red Cross offers a Disaster Training Curriculum entitled *Disaster Health Services: An Overview* that outlines the activities of the Disaster Health Services function of the American Red Cross. Participants will gain knowledge, skills, and abilities needed to provide disaster health services as well as information on becoming involved with their local American Red Cross chapters; therefore be it  
RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) encourage nursing programs to include the American Red Cross disaster training as an elective in their planned curricula; and be it further  
RESOLVED, that the NSNA partner with the American Red Cross to provide recognition for nursing programs participating in American Red Cross disaster training through *Imprint* and the annual NSNA awards ceremony, if feasible; and be it further  
RESOLVED, that participating nursing programs develop and maintain a liaison relationship with the American Red Cross, Office of the Chief Nurse and with their local American Red Cross chapters; and be it further  
RESOLVED, that the NSNA send copies of this resolution to the American Red Cross, Office of the Chief Nurse, the American Nurses Association, the National League for Nursing, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, the Nursing Organizations Alliance and all other organizations deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.