

TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF RAISING AWARENESS OF POSTTRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER (PTSD) IN THE AFTERMATH OF A CRISIS

SUBMITTED BY: Widener University Student Nurse Association, Chester, Pennsylvania

WHEREAS, the 2001 National Student Nurses' Association House of Delegates supported increasing community knowledge concerning Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD); and

WHEREAS, 7 to 14 percent of the population experiences PTSD; and

WHEREAS, PTSD is the fourth most common disorder in the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders-III-R*; and

WHEREAS, PTSD defines a rather specific syndrome in which trauma survivors are unable to get the traumatic event out of their minds; and

WHEREAS, traumatic events involving interpersonal violence such as torture, rape, assaultive violence, comba, motor vehicular accidents, natural disasters, and national crises are potential elicitors of PTSD; and

WHEREAS, previous exposure to trauma, particularly in childhood, a history of psychological and behavioral problems, and familial factors such as parental PTSD and family history of anxiety and depression have been noted as risk factors for PTSD; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) support education to increase the awareness among persons affected by crises and interpersonal violence; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage and support collaboration among community resources, health care providers, and clients to promote early intervention for individuals at risk for PTSD; 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 Medical Association, the National Association of School Nurses, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the American Organization of Nurse Executives, the American Public Health Association, the American Psychiatric Nurses Association, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Psychological Association, the National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, any other organizations deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.