

**TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED PRIMARY CARE HEALTH ACCESS AMONG THE GERIATRIC POPULATION**

**SUBMITTED BY: National Student Nurses' Association Board of Directors**

WHEREAS, the expected growth of the older adult population will have an unprecedented impact on the U.S. health care system, especially in terms of supply of and demand for health care workers. The aging of the population will also affect the nature of the skills and services the health care workforce must be equipped to provide, and the settings in which this care is provided, and

WHEREAS, recent trends suggest that the quality of seniors' interactions with their primary providers declined significantly, as did other hallmarks of primary care such as continuity, integration of care, and financial accessibility, and

WHEREAS, financial problems are only one of the barriers geriatric patients face in obtaining the health care they need. Other factors such as health beliefs, cultural practices, language barriers, social networks and contacts, and the availability and accessibility of medical care in the community, and

WHEREAS, there are increasing needs to recruit more Registered Nurses to be proficient in older adult issues and health care needs, and

WHEREAS, growth may be insufficient to meet future demands. Annual replacement needs are likely to accelerate over the next 10 to 20 years because large numbers of APNs will be reaching conventional retirement age, and

WHEREAS, as the number of older adults rises and APNs are used more effectively in the treatment of this population, demand for APNs may grow substantially; therefore be it that the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) support legislation increasing the allocation of resources in geriatric primary care as well as an increase in educational funding for geriatric primary care providers; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA support research exploring cost effective education and intervention models that can be used to close this healthcare gap; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage constituents to sponsor programs and seminars about the opportunities, challenges and need for increased access to health care for older adults; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA provide programs at the MidYear Conference and Annual Convention, and publish articles in *Imprint* and on the NSNA website that inform current and potential nursing students about opportunities and the need for increased access to primary health care among older adults, 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 National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, the American Organization of Nurse Executives, the National Nursing Staff Development Organization, the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the American Medical Association, AARP, the American Geriatrics Society, the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education, the Coalition of Geriatric Nursing Organizations, the Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing, the National Association of Gerontological Nursing, the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties, and all others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.