

RESOLUTIONS 2006

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**2006 NSNA RESOLUTIONS
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TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED ADVOCACY FOR IMPROVED PRECEPTOR PROGRAMS TO CREATE A ROBUST WORKFORCE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE NURSING PROFESSION

SUBMITTED BY: The Student Nurses' Association of Pennsylvania Board of Directors

WHEREAS, “despite . . . initiatives aimed at recruiting and retaining critically thinking and motivated registered nurses (RN)s, several key factors continue to negatively influence the sustainability of a quality nursing workforce”; and

WHEREAS, current literature reports that as many as 80 to 90 percent of new graduate nurses will leave their job within the first year of employment; and

WHEREAS, “some new graduates suggest they are not adequately prepared for what they are likely to encounter -- orientation to new hospital environments, the pressure of decision making, and becoming familiar with different equipment, policies and hospital procedures -- and often comment on high levels of expectation and less than helpful attitudes demonstrated by existing nurses”; and

WHEREAS, “the transition period from student to RN marks the beginning of the journey from novice to advanced beginner, where support and guidance is needed to ensure safe and efficient practice is maintained and continues to develop”; and

WHEREAS, “coaching, mentoring, and support are required for all RNs but is imperative to propel the new graduate RN through the process of transformation from student to novice nurse”; and

WHEREAS, “a preceptor facilitates learning through encouragement and presentation of actual or theoretical case scenarios that challenge an orientee to question and to think a situation through critically”; and

WHEREAS, dissatisfaction with the amount of preceptorship was ranked by nurses as the most important of 34 reasons for leaving or considering leaving a first job; and

WHEREAS, “the value of preceptorships in the organization must be acknowledged and valued . . . to maintain the integrity of the program and to enhance staff morale, [and] recognition of preceptor efforts and service is absolutely necessary to recruit and retain high-quality employees who are willing to serve the organization in the capacity of preceptor”; and

WHEREAS, “mentorship enable[s] novice nurses to nurse in a more reflective and holistic way, and their positively reinforced self-relation may be understood as a crucial ingredient for maintaining quality standards in nursing in the future”; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) serve as an advocate for the establishment and/or improvement of preceptorship programs in healthcare facilities nationwide which hire nursing graduates; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA make constituents aware of and educate them about the positive and successful outcomes associated with preceptorship programs through the NSNA website and *Imprint*, if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA collaborate with professional nursing organizations to increase research on the outcomes of preceptorship programs; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA send a copy of this resolution to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the National League for Nursing, the American Organization of Nurse Executives, the American Hospital Association, the American Nurses Association, the American Nurses Credentialing Center, the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, the National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, and all others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.

TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF EDUCATION ABOUT AND PROPER DISPOSAL OF PHARMACEUTICALS AND PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS (PPCPs)

SUBMITTED BY: Iowa Association of Nursing Students

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has identified problems due to Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products (PPCPs) that are disposed directly into the sewage system, landfills, and other sources that could leak into the water system; and

WHEREAS, PPCPs found include: “antibiotics, hormones, painkillers, antidepressants, and an array of other medications...” resulting in alarming uncertainties regarding health and environmental damages; and

WHEREAS, a United States (U. S.) Geological Survey study detailed the presence of prescription and non-prescription drugs, hormones, and other compounds, in a network of 139 targeted streams across the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, according to Section 2.2 of the EPA standards on Hazardous Waste Categorization and Management, “a number of commonly used pharmaceuticals become hazardous waste when discarded”; and

WHEREAS, the American Society of Health System Pharmacists’ position is “to encourage pharmaceutical manufacturers and the EPA to provide guidance and assistance to health systems in their pharmaceutical waste-destruction and waste-recycling efforts”; and

WHEREAS, concerns about medications in the water system have been identified to include the overuse of antibiotics and their disposal into the water system leading to antibiotic resistance, and hormonal changes in fish caused by natural or pharmaceutical estrogen in the water; and

WHEREAS, “the U.S. EPA’s Resource Conservation Recovery Act inspection program of hospitals, which includes some of the most prominent healthcare organizations in the U.S., has revealed a widespread failure to manage pharmaceutical waste, resulting in fines totaling millions of dollars and civil citations”; and

WHEREAS, flushing medications down the toilet is no longer recommended because treatment plants do not have standards to remove PPCP residue from water; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses’ Association (NSNA) advocate for education about proper disposal of PPCPs by nursing students, nursing professionals, and health care entities; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage its constituents to educate those in their communities and health care settings about the importance of proper disposal of PPCPs; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA advocate that professional nurses and nursing students become involved in initiatives that support the proper disposal of PPCPs; 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 Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Natural Resources, the Drug Enforcement Agency, the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, and all others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.

TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF TOBACCO FREE NURSES, NURSING STUDENTS, AND MEDICAL CAMPUSES

SUBMITTED BY: California State University, Sacramento-Division of Nursing, the State of Idaho Student Nurses' Association, and the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing, Baltimore, Maryland

WHEREAS, tobacco use is the leading cause of death in the United States; and

WHEREAS, "each year environmental tobacco smoke kills an estimated 35,000 to 65,000 adult non-smokers from heart disease and 3,000 non-smokers from lung cancer," making it a major health concern; and

WHEREAS, "even the smell of smoke on clothes can trigger asthma symptoms in a child with sensitive airways"; and

WHEREAS, reports of the prevalence of smoking among nursing students is 13.5% (four times higher than observed among medical students) and 16% of the nation's registered nurses smoke; and

WHEREAS, nurses who smoke take more breaks, spend less time with patients, and are less likely to participate in smoking cessation interventions with their patients; and

WHEREAS, "on-site smoking cessation programs make it easier to implement smoke-free workplaces and increase the benefits for employees and employers"; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) encourage its constituents to support the initiative of the Tobacco Free Nurses as well as the goal of the American Nurses Association to reduce and prevent tobacco related morbidity and mortality; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA and its members encourage healthcare facilities to adopt on-site smoking cessation programs and treatment options free of charge to staff; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage its constituents to collaborate with nursing programs to include education about smoking cessation programs in their curricula; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage its constituents to work with legislators to expand the existing ban on smoking in public places to include all healthcare facilities; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage the publication of information related to the benefits of a smoke-free nursing staff and healthcare facilities in *Imprint* and other nursing periodicals, if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA send a copy of this resolution to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the American Cancer Society, the American Heart Association, the American Lung Association, the American Medical Association, the American Nurses Association, the American Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, the American Public Health Association, the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, the National League for Nursing, the Tobacco Free Nurses, the National Coalition of Ethnic Minority Nurse Associations, the United States Food and Drug Administration, and all others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.

TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED EDUCATION AND AWARENESS FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS AND WOMEN REGARDING THE USE AND EFFECTS OF METHAMPHETAMINE DURING PREGNANCY

SUBMITTED BY: College of Southern Idaho

WHEREAS, national and state legislators are working in conjunction with pharmaceutical corporations to create regulations related to purchases made of over-the-counter preparations containing pseudoephedrine, a main ingredient used in the production of methamphetamines; and

WHEREAS, "methamphetamine is the only illicit drug that does not have a lower rate of use for pregnant women than nonpregnant women"; and

WHEREAS, women who use amphetamines increase their risk of developing high blood pressure, tachycardia, and proteinuria during pregnancy, along with delivery complications such as placental hemorrhage and maternal abruption; and

WHEREAS, methamphetamine use during pregnancy slows fetal growth and interferes with normal embryonic development of neural structures, producing cardiac malformations, cleft lip, eye abnormalities, and skeletal malformations; and

WHEREAS, babies exposed to methamphetamine in utero are frequently sleepy for the first few weeks, often not waking to feed and when awake are jittery, irritable, and have a shrill cry; and

WHEREAS, the inevitable conclusion is that society must seek ways not only to treat, but prevent this epidemic; to this end, the focus should be identifying potential drug abusing mothers before they reach the stage of prenatal care and educate them regarding the fatal consequences of drug abuse; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) encourage the development of policies regarding education for healthcare professionals, therefore providing pregnant women with information on fetal and maternal effects of methamphetamine use during pregnancy and on the availability of drug rehabilitation programs as part of routine prenatal care; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage education about recognizing signs and symptoms of methamphetamine use in the prenatal mother as part of the curriculum in nursing schools; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage its constituents to partner with healthcare facilities to raise public awareness on this topic; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA send a copy of this resolution to the American Nurses Association, the American Medical Association, the United States Department of Health and Human Services, the National League for Nursing, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, and any others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.

TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED AWARENESS REGARDING MINIMIZING EXPOSURE TO MEDICALLY GENERATED TOXINS

SUBMITTED BY: St. Petersburg College Student Nurses' Association, St. Petersburg, Florida

WHEREAS, "hospitals in the United States produce 6,600 tons of medical waste daily"; and
WHEREAS, the disposal of numerous types of mercury-containing devices in healthcare settings results in substantial environmental pollution; and
WHEREAS, particulate air pollution "causes an estimated 500,000 premature deaths in the world each year"; and
WHEREAS, increased levels of fine particle air pollutants have been related to the development and exacerbation of chronic lung and cardiovascular disease; and
WHEREAS, "medical waste containing chlorinated materials such as polyvinyl chloride (PVC) plastic, when incinerated, is the third largest contributor of dioxins"; and
WHEREAS, "dioxins induce harmful effects on many organ systems and are well known as carcinogenic, teratogenic, hepatotoxic, and as endocrine disrupters and immunosuppresants"; therefore be it
RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) encourage its constituents to establish, support, and participate in workplace and community programs that contribute to decreased exposure to medically generated toxins; and be it further
RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage its constituents to incorporate environmental health awareness into their curricula; and be it further
RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage its constituents to increase their awareness about environmental health issues through articles in *Imprint* and focus sessions at NSNA conferences, if feasible; and be it further
RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage its constituents to support local, state, and national legislation that aims to improve the quality of the environment through the regulation of pollutants; 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 National Environmental Health Association, the American Hospital Association, the American Lung Association, Hospitals for a Healthy Environment, the Environmental Protection Agency, and any others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.

TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF EDUCATION AND AWARENESS TO REDUCE THE RISK OF INJURY RESULTING FROM FALLS IN HEALTHCARE SETTINGS IN THE UNITED STATES

SUBMITTED BY: Maurine Church Coburn School of Nursing, Monterey Peninsula College

WHEREAS, in 2001 and 2003 the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) House of Delegates supported resolutions recommending fall risk assessment and prevention programs; and

WHEREAS, fall alert symbols such as a falling star or leaf, identifiable by hospital staff, rather than a sign with words have been used to identify patients who are at risk of falling; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) had a primary goal in 2005 to assess patients for risk of falls and implement interventions to ensure patient safety; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) support the inclusion of education for nurses and nursing students on patient assessment for falls in their curricula; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA promote patient teaching in regard to reducing risk factors associated with falls; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA promote a patient symbol, such as a falling star or falling leaf, so that all health care personnel are aware of the patient's risk of falling; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA publish articles on the topic of reducing patient risk for falls in *Imprint*, if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage individual members to promote education in their clinical facility regarding the increased health risks and costs associated with the risk of falling through continuing education programs; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA send a copy of this to the National League for Nursing, the American Nurses Association, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the American Organization of Nurse Executives, the National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, the American Public Health Association, the American Red Cross, the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, and any others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.

TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED AWARENESS AND EDUCATION REGARDING GESTATIONAL DIABETES

SUBMITTED BY: University of Pennsylvania

WHEREAS, Gestational Diabetes Mellitus (GDM) affects approximately 7% of all pregnant women, resulting in more than 200,000 cases of GDM per year; and

WHEREAS, the detection of GDM is “important because of its associated maternal and fetal complications” related to the greater severity of insulin resistance exhibited in GDM; and

WHEREAS, fetal and maternal complications increase the risk of detrimental or significant outcomes for both mother and baby; and

WHEREAS, untreated GDM significantly increases the risk of such complications; and

WHEREAS, a diagnosis of GDM is associated with an increased risk of developing GDM in a future pregnancy and type II Diabetes Mellitus later in life; and

WHEREAS, the American College of Gynecology (ACOG) recommends all pregnant women be routinely screened for GDM using a 1-hour 50 g-oral glucose challenge test administered at the recommended 24-28 weeks gestation; and

WHEREAS, light exercise, characterized by walking 2.52 km in one hour or an increase of 9 beats per minute in heart rate, decreases postprandial blood glucose in women with GDM; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that nutritional management, blood glucose monitoring, insulin therapy, nutrition, and follow-up after the birth greatly improves the outcome of both the mother’s pregnancy and baby’s health; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Students Nurses’ Association (NSNA) encourage its constituents to emphasize the American College of Gynecology’s (ACOG) recommendation that all pregnant women be routinely screened for Gestational Diabetes Mellitus (GDM); and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage its constituents to support the education of symptoms related to GDM to healthcare professionals, women, and their families; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage its constituents to advocate for increased promotion of GDM treatment that prevents complications described above; 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 National Perinatal Association, the Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nurses, the American College of Nurse Midwives, the American Diabetes Association, and any others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.

TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF CONSISTANT MANDATORY MINIMUM SENTENCING FOR CHILD SEX OFFENDERS

SUBMITTED BY: Salisbury University Student Nurses Association

- WHEREAS, “the chance that your child will become a victim of a sex offender is 1 in 3 for girls and 1 in 6 for boys”; and
- WHEREAS, “there are about 400,000 registered sex offenders in the United States and an estimated 80,000 to 100,000 of them are missing”; and
- WHEREAS, “the average sentence imposed on the 9,700 sex offenders was 8 years, and on average, [only] 3 ½ years of those 8 years were actually served prior to release”; and
- WHEREAS, “the majority of registered offenders are child sex offenders, who have been convicted of 1st, 2nd, or 3rd degree sex offenses against minors”; and
- WHEREAS, “sex offenders are four times more likely than other offenders to be rearrested for another sex crime, and child molesters have the highest rearrest rates among different types of sex offenders”; and
- WHEREAS, there have been several laws, including Megan’s Law and Jessica’s Law, that require states to register and track sex offenders; and
- WHEREAS, the Children’s Safety Act of 2005 requires sex offenders failing to register to spend as many as 20 years in jail [and] “ensures mandatory minimum sentences for violent crimes against children, ranging from death or life imprisonment when a child is killed and 30 years in prison for crimes involving kidnapping, maiming or aggravated sexual abuse”; therefore be it
- RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses’ Association (NSNA) encourage its constituents to evaluate and support current and pending legislation regarding sex offender registration, tracking, and mandatory minimum sentences; and be it further
- RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage nursing programs to educate nursing students about signs of sexual abuse and mandatory reporting of abuse; and be it further
- RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage its constituents to increase awareness and education regarding the dangerous effects of sexual abuse on children and adults; 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 American Medical Association, the National Institutes of Health, the United States Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the American Psychiatric Association, the United States Department of Health and Human Services, the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Associates and Practitioners, and all others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.

TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF ENCOURAGING GREATER ATTENTION IN NURSING CURRICULA TO RESEARCH SUPPORTING THE SAFETY OF PLANNED OUT-OF-HOSPITAL BIRTHS FOR LOW RISK WOMEN ATTENDED BY LICENSED MATERNITY CARE PROFESSIONALS

SUBMITTED BY: Emory Student Nurses Association

- WHEREAS, an established body of research indicates that, among women comprehensively evaluated and determined to be at low risk for obstetric complications, planned out-of-hospital births attended by licensed maternity care professionals produce comparable safety outcomes to hospital births among similar women; and
- WHEREAS, planned out-of-hospital births for low risk women attended by licensed maternity care professionals are associated with significantly lower rates of medical intervention as compared to hospital births among similar women; and
- WHEREAS, planned out-of-hospital births among low risk women as described above produce more cost-effective outcomes than hospital births among similar women; and
- WHEREAS, while the majority of births in the United States are to low-risk women, only approximately 1-2 % of all births in the United States may currently be characterized as planned out-of-hospital births; and
- WHEREAS, research suggests that more low-risk, healthy women might choose out-of-hospital births if made aware of research indicating the comparable safety of such births to hospital births and if such births became more widely accessible; and
- WHEREAS, the American Nurses Association (ANA) affirms in its Code of Ethics the right of patients to self-determination in health care, including the right “to be given accurate, complete, and understandable information in a manner that facilitates an informed judgment” and the right to “be assisted with weighing the benefits, burdens, and available options in their treatment”; and
- WHEREAS, the ANA also affirms the responsibility of nurses and the nursing profession to “be knowledgeable . . . [and] to assist in efforts to educate the public [and] facilitate informed choice”; therefore be it
- RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses’ Association (NSNA) support the right of women to self-determination in maternity care, and promote public awareness of a cost-effective maternity care option for eligible women by encouraging greater attention in nursing curricula to research supporting the safety of planned out-of-hospital births among low risk women attended by licensed maternity care professionals; and be it further
- RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage its constituents to promote greater public awareness of research supporting the safety of planned out-of-hospital births among low risk women attended by licensed maternity care professionals through community education initiatives; and be it further
- RESOLVED, that the NSNA publish an informative article on this topic in *Imprint* magazine, if feasible; and be it further
- RESOLVED, that the NSNA send a copy of this resolution to the American Nurses Association, the American College of Nurse-Midwives, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Medical Association, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, the National League for Nursing, the National Center for Education in Maternal and Child Health, the National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists, the National Organization for

Associate Degree Nursing, the American Academy of Nursing, the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nursing, the National Association of Neonatal Nurses, the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Neonatal Nurses Association, the American Hospital Association, the Association of American Medical Colleges, the Association of Nurse Advocates for Childbirth Solutions, the American Association of Birth Centers, the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, the American Association of Nurse Attorneys, the American Association of Legal Nurse Consultants, the Department of Health and Human Services, and any others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.

TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF THE WISEWOMAN EXPANSION ACT TO PROVIDE LOW-INCOME, UNINSURED WOMEN WITH HEALTH SERVICES TO PREVENT CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE

SUBMITTED BY: Medcentral College of Nursing Student Nurses Association, Ohio

WHEREAS, coronary heart disease (CHD) is the leading cause of death and premature disability for women in the United States, affecting one in three female adults; and

WHEREAS, CHD disproportionately affects ethnic minority women, particularly African American and Hispanic women; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has established a Program called WISEWOMAN (Well-Integrated Screening and Evaluation for Women Across the Nation); and

WHEREAS, this program provides low income, uninsured women with screening and preventive healthcare services in an effort to prevent cardiovascular disease; and

WHEREAS, the program also provides educational programs to women to inform them about lowering their risk for heart disease, including healthy eating habits and increased physical activity; and

WHEREAS, “In the past four years, WISEWOMAN has identified over 3,000 cases of previously undiagnosed hypertension, 3,600 cases of undiagnosed high cholesterol, and more than 500 cases of undiagnosed diabetes”; and

WHEREAS, Representative DeLauro has presented H.R. 3086, WISEWOMAN Expansion Act of 2005, to the 109th Congress to increase funding for this program by \$5,000,000 for two consecutive years, beginning with an amount of \$20,000,000 in 2006; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses’ Association (NSNA) encourage its members to use this information to increase awareness regarding heart disease in women, particularly to African American and Hispanic women, and underserved women; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage its constituents to support the passage of the WISEWOMAN Expansion Act; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA emphasize to its constituents the importance of involvement in the legislative process to enact change related to health prevention and promotion programs, through published articles in *Imprint* and programs at the convention, if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA send a copy of this resolution to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, the American College of Cardiology, the American Nurses Association, the American Heart Association, the Council on Cardiovascular Nursing, the National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease, the National League for Nursing, and all others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.

TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED AWARENESS REGARDING THE NEED FOR RESEARCH AND IMPROVED TREATMENTS FOR CHILDREN WITH DEPRESSION

SUBMITTED BY: Villanova University Student Nurses' Association

WHEREAS, in 1995 and 2002, the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) adopted resolutions supporting increased awareness of suicide and depression in adolescents; and

WHEREAS, "the prevalence of Major Depressive Disorder (MDD) is 0.3% to 1% among preschool-age children, 1% to 9% among school-age children, and 4% to 8% among adolescents"; and

WHEREAS, the benefits of routinely screening children and adolescents for depression are not known; and

WHEREAS, "the existing literature suggests that screening tests perform reasonably well in adolescents and that treatments are effective, but the clinical impact of routine depression screening has not been studied in pediatric populations in primary care settings"; and

WHEREAS, "major depression in children and adolescents is a serious condition that should be adequately treated, which includes careful follow-up and monitoring"; and

WHEREAS, of the "estimated 1 in 10 children and adolescents in the United States" who suffer "from mental illness severe enough to cause some level of impairment fewer than 1 in 5 of these ill children receives treatment"; and

WHEREAS, David Satcher, Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service from 1998-2002 declared that, "promoting mental health for all Americans ... calls for the willingness of each of us to educate ourselves and others about mental health and mental illnesses"; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) encourage its constituents to collaborate with professional nursing and healthcare organizations to increase evidence-based research on the benefits of routinely screening children and adolescents for major depression and as a topic for undergraduate nursing research; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage its constituents to advocate for effective treatment, follow-up, and monitoring of children with major depression; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA promote awareness about the etiology, signs and symptoms, and treatment of major depression in children through *Imprint*, workshops during convention, community health projects, and all other methods deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors, if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA send a copy of this resolution to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the American Nurses Association, the National League for Nursing, the National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, the American Psychiatric Nurses Association, the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Associates and Practitioners, the Society of Pediatric Nurses, and any others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.

TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF PROFESSIONAL WORKPLACE CULTURE AND DECREASING HORIZONTAL VIOLENCE

SUBMITTED BY: NSNA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

WHEREAS, in 2001 the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) House of Delegates adopted the resolution entitled *In Support of the Prevention of Workplace Violence in Health Care Settings Through Increased Education and Awareness*; and

WHEREAS, the International Council of Nurses (ICN) believes that "violence in the health workplace threatens the delivery of effective patient services"; and

WHEREAS, many of the problems that affect and perpetuate problems with professional workplace culture are: "tolerance of abuse from physicians, lack of commitment by management to adhere to an optimal workplace safety program, absence of respect from peers and other health care professionals, absence of a code of conduct for all team members"; and

WHEREAS, according to the ICN, "some of the major sources of stress for nurses include conflict with colleagues such as supervisors and other health care professionals, inadequate preparation to deal with the emotional needs of the patients, lack of staff support, and workload"; and

WHEREAS, "work-related stress accounts for \$200-300 billion a year in the American workplace"; and

WHEREAS, Horizontal Violence is one of the largest destructors of professional workplace culture and includes "all acts of unkindness, discourtesy, sabotage, divisiveness, infighting, lack of cohesiveness, scapegoating, and criticism"; and

WHEREAS, "few programs train nursing personnel to identify potentially dangerous situations and develop effective mechanisms to deal with aggression"; and

WHEREAS, "there is a positive relationship between training, motivating, and empowering employees, and improvements in productivity, employee satisfaction, and financial performance"; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) encourage the fostering of positive nursing images and respect for nurses' rights to dignity and personal safety through role modeling; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA educate its members regarding occupational health and safety measures, including the promotion of safe behavioral patterns and stress reduction; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage the integration of courses in nursing curricula on the elimination and/or management of violence; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA "advocate for employers to ensure that they meet their occupational health and safety obligations, including developing adequate staffing levels, and work methods that support quality care"; 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 National Council of State Boards of Nursing, the American Hospital Association, the American Organization of Nurse Executives, the American Medical Association, the Student Health Alliance, and any others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.

TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF THE REVISION OF THE CURRENT BLOOD DONATION POLICY THAT IMPOSES A LIFETIME DEFERRAL ON ANY MAN WHO HAS HAD SEX WITH ANOTHER MAN (MSM) SINCE 1977

SUBMITTED BY: University of Connecticut Student Nurses Association

WHEREAS, the national blood supply is consistently at critically low levels and relies on donation by voluntary blood donors to deliver life-saving blood products to America's patients; and

WHEREAS, in 1983 the Federal Drug Administration's (FDA) Blood Products Advisory Committee (BPAC) recommended excluding donors considered to be "at high risk" for Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infection (to include MSM) and reaffirmed this recommendation in 1992; and

WHEREAS, there are currently no deferral periods for heterosexual men and women who engage in risky sexual behaviors, such that "a woman who has had unprotected anal sex with multiple partners over the past year with no knowledge of the personal histories remains in the donor pool," where MSM are deferred for life; and

WHEREAS, the most current FDA-licensed and required HIV laboratory screening for all donated blood has reduced the infectious window (time from HIV exposure to ability to recognize antibodies in the blood) to approximately sixteen days or less; and

WHEREAS, the BPAC last reviewed this policy in September, 2000, in which a vote of seven to six prevented revision of this policy, and where the American Association of Blood Banks and America's Blood Centers (ABC) were among supporters of changing the deferral period to one year; and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), from 2001-2004, the route of HIV infection through high-risk heterosexual contact was greater than for infection via intravenous drug use in males and accounted for 76% of the route by which females were infected, and since collection of these data, the current donor screening process has not been reexamined; and

WHEREAS, at the September 2000 BPAC meeting, a representative from America's Blood Center stated, "ABC members are concerned about the unintended consequences of the current deferral criteria for MSM... The question focuses attention on events that took place more than twenty years ago instead of events that occurred within the currently known window period of days or weeks"; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) encourage its constituents to support the education and awareness of the need for the national review of the current blood donation policies, most importantly regarding MSM; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this awareness be promoted by the NSNA through the publication of current factual and statistical information regarding blood donation and policy in *Imprint*, if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage its constituents to provide information regarding blood donation policy and deferral criteria in an easily accessible way through methods such as web links, public forums, and collaboration with local blood collection agencies; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage constituents to monitor, provide information, and become involved in the revision process of current policy on the local, state, and national level; and be further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA send a copy of this resolution to the Food and Drug Administration, the American Red Cross, the American Association of Blood Banks, America's Blood Centers, the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association, 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, and any others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.

TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF INTEGRATING THE “HANDLE WITH CARE” SAFE PATIENT LIFTING CAMPAIGN INTO NURSING CURRICULA

SUBMITTED BY: Arkansas Nursing Students Association, the University of Texas at Tyler College of Nursing, and Texas Woman’s University at Houston College of Nursing

WHEREAS, the 2005 National Student Nurses’ Association (NSNA) House of Delegates supported the American Nurses Association’s (ANA) “Handle with Care” campaign; and

WHEREAS, “nurses tend to practice what they learned in school”; and

WHEREAS, 83% of nurse educators in nursing programs have taught manual lift techniques that have been deemed inefficient and dangerous to nurses and patients; and

WHEREAS, “despite that fact that these techniques are not evidence-based, [they] have been found to be unsafe for the nurse and patient”; and

WHEREAS, “a major change is needed in the current curricula in schools of nursing across the United States”; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses’ Association (NSNA) continue to support the “Handle with Care” campaign; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage its constituents to collaborate with accrediting bodies to incorporate safe lifting strategies into curricula; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage its constituents to collaborate with faculty to provide education about evidence based strategies and mechanical lifts and devices; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage its constituents to communicate with healthcare facilities about the importance of working with nursing programs to orient nursing students to mechanical devices in healthcare facilities; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA educate its constituents through articles in *Imprint* and focus sessions at conventions, if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA send a copy of this resolution to the American Nurses Association, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the National League for Nursing, the National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, the American Organization of Nurse Executives, Dr. Audrey Nelson, the Surgeon General of the United States, and any others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.

TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED AWARENESS AND EDUCATION REGARDING PREVENTION OF RECREATIONAL WATER ILLNESSES

SUBMITTED BY: Mineral Area College Student Nurses Association, Missouri

WHEREAS, recreational water illnesses (RWIs) comprise a broad spectrum of illnesses, including infections of the skin, eye, ear, respiratory, neurological, and gastrointestinal systems; and

WHEREAS, RWIs refer to illnesses associated with the use of recreational water venues such as swimming pools, hot tubs, water parks, beaches, and the ocean; and

WHEREAS, even the best maintained pools can spread illness. Germ inactivation time for chlorinated water (1 ppm at pH 7.5 and 77 °F) varies from less than one minute for *Escherichia coli* 0157:H7, about 45 minutes for *Giardia*, and approximately 6.7 days for *Cryptosporidium*; and

WHEREAS, during 2001-2002, 23 states reported 65 waterborne-disease outbreaks; and

WHEREAS, fecal contamination is common and there is no swim diaper currently available which will prevent the spread of bacteria in swimming pools; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) identified six healthy swimming behaviors: 1) Do not swim when you have diarrhea. You can spread germs in the water and make other people sick; 2) Do not swallow the pool water. In fact, avoid getting water in your mouth; 3) Practice good hygiene. Shower before swimming and wash your hands after using the toilet or changing diapers. Germs on your body end up in the water; 4) Take children on bathroom breaks or change diapers often. Waiting to hear “I have to go” may mean it is too late; 5) Change diapers in a bathroom and not at poolside. Germs can spread to surfaces and objects in and around the pool and spread illness; 6) Wash your child thoroughly (especially the rear end) with soap and water before swimming. Everyone has visible amounts of fecal matter on their bottoms that end up in the pool; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses’ Association (NSNA) encourage its constituents to support increasing awareness and education regarding prevention of recreational water illnesses and the six healthy swimming behaviors identified by the CDC; 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 Association of Colleges of Nursing, the American Public Health Association, the Association of Camp Nurses, the National Association of School Nurses, the American College of Nurse Practitioners, and any others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.

TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PROTOCOLS FOR DISASTER RELIEF GUIDING THE SCOPE OF PRACTICE FOR STUDENT NURSES AND THE COLLECTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF DONATIONS

SUBMITTED BY: Texas Student Nurses Association and Valencia Community College Nursing Student Association

WHEREAS, student nurses have contributed to disaster relief from the time of the Jacksonville yellow fever epidemic of 1888; and

WHEREAS, the American Red Cross recognizes the contributions of student nurses in “delivering critical community services for more than half a century”; and

WHEREAS, the United States has experienced many crisis events, both natural and man-made, within the past four years; and

WHEREAS, no community is ever fully prepared to handle a massive disaster with a large influx of patients; and

WHEREAS, professional nurses are often restricted to acute care settings in times of disaster and crisis; and

WHEREAS, student nurses are an available and competent resource to assist in disaster relief efforts; and

WHEREAS, no literature has identified the appropriate scope of practice to support student nurse utilization in the area of disaster relief; and

WHEREAS, the lack of a defined scope of practice for student nurses during disaster relief operations is a repeated problem needing attention and is likely to reoccur; and

WHEREAS, the National Student Nurses’ Association (NSNA) has for the past 53 years been the connecting link and collective body of the state student nurses associations promoting “civic responsibility”; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses’ Association (NSNA) support education and awareness of the need for the establishment of protocols guiding the scope of practice for student nurses in the area of disaster relief and the collection and distribution of donations for disaster areas; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage its constituents to work collaboratively with their local and state disaster response and healthcare agencies to develop a taskforce that will define the scope of practice of student nurses in disaster settings and develop a protocol for coordinating the collection and distribution of donations to be sent to disaster areas; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA promote student involvement in community disaster response planning, implementation, and evaluation, and the collection and distribution of donations; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA send a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, the American Nurses Association, the American Red Cross, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the National League for Nursing, the National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, state departments of health, the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, and all others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.

TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF EXPANDING PERIOPERATIVE NURSING EXPERIENCES IN UNDERGRADUATE NURSING CURRICULA

SUBMITTED BY: Florida Nursing Student Association Executive Board

WHEREAS, the ongoing nursing shortage is affecting many areas including perioperative nursing; and

WHEREAS, content and clinical activities specific to the roles of perioperative registered nurses have been gradually eliminated from most undergraduate nursing curricula over the past 30 years; and

WHEREAS, all nurses need adequate preparation in perioperative nursing to properly assess and manage the needs of surgical patients and their families; and

WHEREAS, the Association of Perioperative Nurses (AORN) states that the solution to a shortage of perioperative nurses is to provide basic preparation for perioperative nursing in nursing programs; and

WHEREAS, nursing programs and hospitals have successfully collaborated to develop programs, such as externships and internships and a perioperative elective; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) encourage its constituents to support the incorporation and inclusion of theoretical and clinical perioperative nursing experiences into nursing curricula; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA emphasize the importance of perioperative nursing through articles, advertisements, commentaries, etc., in *Imprint*, focus sessions at conventions, and appropriate perioperative nursing links on the NSNA website, if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA send a copy of this resolution to the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, the Association of Perioperative Nurses, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, the American Nurses Association, the National League for Nursing, and any others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Boards of Directors.