

TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF THE AMERICAN NURSES ASSOCIATION “SAFE STAFFING SAVES LIVES” CAMPAIGN

SUBMITTED BY: The University of Alabama in Huntsville Student Nurses’ Association, Huntsville, AL

WHEREAS, the 2003 National Student Nurses’ Association (NSNA) House of Delegates supported mandatory patient: nurse staffing ratios to maximize patient safety and quality of care, and minimize professional burnout in practicing nurses; and

WHEREAS, “staffing is an issue of professional concern because inappropriate staffing can threaten patients’ safety, RN’s [Registered Nurses’] health and safety, and the integrity of the professional’s commitment to patients”; and

WHEREAS, “staffing also concerns RNs because of the pressures put on them everyday by increasing patient intensity, increasing complexity of care and the fatigue they feel which increases over time”; and

WHEREAS, safe staffing “provides hospitals with the flexibility of tailoring nurse staffing to the specific needs of patients based on factors including how sick the patient is, the experience of the nursing staff, technology, and support services available to the nurses”; and

WHEREAS, complications associated with inappropriate staffing include postoperative respiratory and/or cardiac complications, increased risk for pulmonary failure and re-intubation, and infectious complications (e.g., septicemia); and

WHEREAS, in hospitals with high RN staffing, medical patients had lower rates of urinary tract infections, pneumonia, shock, upper gastrointestinal bleeding, and decreased hospital stays; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Registered Nurse Safe Staffing Act “would hold hospitals accountable for the development of valid, reliable unit-by-unit nurse staffing plans”; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the NSNA support the American Nurses Association’s “Safe Staffing Saves Lives” Campaign; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage its constituents to support legislation proposed to develop valid, reliable unit-by-unit nurse staffing plans; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage its constituent members to write to their state and national legislators in support of “Safe Staffing Saves Lives”; and be it further

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