

TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF REWRITING THE LANGUAGE OF THE CURRENT GOOD SAMARITAN LAWS TO COVER ALL LICENSED HEALTHCARE PERSONNEL RESPONDING TO EMERGENCIES AND/OR OPERATING AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS

SUBMITTED BY: Arkansas Nursing Students' Association

WHEREAS, the 2003 National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) House of Delegates supported increased protection for volunteerism by medical personnel caring for the underserved and uninsured; and

WHEREAS, "each year 164,000 Americans experience sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) outside of a hospital"; and

WHEREAS, "on average in the United States, just 6% of SCA victims survive"; and

WHEREAS, "cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and early defibrillation with an automated external defibrillator (AED) more than double a victim's chance of survival"; and

WHEREAS, in 37 states immunity for rescuers does not include licensed nurses; and

WHEREAS, "21 states do not have statutes that allow for adequate liability protection for healthcare volunteers during emergencies"; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the NSNA support legislation related to standardizing the language of the current Good Samaritan Laws in all states, the District of Columbia or any territory, possession or dependency of the United States of America to offer immunity for all rescuers who are licensed healthcare personnel; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA send copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Vice-President of the United States, the Speaker of the House, the National Institutes of Health, the American Nurses Association, the National League for Nursing, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, and all others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.