

# **RESOLUTIONS 2004**

The resolutions contained in this packet  
were passed by the  
2004 NSNA House of Delegates,  
March 31 - April 4 in Nashville, Tennessee

National Student Nurses' Association, Inc.  
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**TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED AWARENESS OF THE PROFESSIONAL ETIQUETTE OF NURSING STUDENTS**

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

WHEREAS, in a face-to-face encounter, 7 percent of a verbal message comes from the words used; 38 percent comes from the vocal tone, pacing, and inflection; and 55 percent of the message is transmitted by the speaker's appearance and body language; and

WHEREAS, manner of dress is often used by patients and families as a cue for recognition of the function of the staff members and may shape ambiguous perceptions about individuals and the institution; and

WHEREAS, patients and family members undergoing the stress of outpatient visits and procedures, as well as hospitalization, need to feel confident in those caring for them; and

WHEREAS, the patients we serve are increasingly diverse, each requiring unique etiquette skills; and

WHEREAS, good professional etiquette indicates to potential employers and the public that students are mature, responsible adults who will represent their profession in an exemplary manner; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA), publish a series in *Imprint* about dressing for success, a nursing student's responsibility to project a professional image, and acting in a professional manner, if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA plan a focus session on etiquette and general convention responsibilities for all delegates at the convention, if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage constituents to establish a public image committee; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA require that all wireless communications be turned off during the House of Delegates and all sessions, in accordance with professional etiquette; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage its constituents to portray a professional image by wearing business attire at the annual NSNA House of Delegates; and be it further,

RESOLVED, that the NSNA send a copy of this resolution to the American Nurses Association, the National League for Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International, the National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, the *American Journal of Nursing*, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, and all others deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors.

**TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF MENTORING MIDDLE, JUNIOR HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH AN INTEREST IN THE NURSING PROFESSION**

**SUBMITTED BY: Medical College of Georgia-School of Nursing at Athens Association of Nursing Students**

WHEREAS, the future of nursing depends on nurturing new nurses, including recruitment strategies and mentor programs at the middle, junior high and high school levels; and

WHEREAS, mentoring is a long-standing practice in the development of young professionals and is a feasible means for career exploration for older youth; and

WHEREAS, during the critical transition to adulthood, youth are learning skills, attitudes and behaviors that will affect their lifelong ability to lead productive and healthy lives; and

WHEREAS, mentoring provides a chance to meet and interact with professionals in ways that promote young people to further their education and acquire post-secondary training; and

WHEREAS, those who mentor individuals interested in the mentors' career field are more motivated to initiate and sustain the mentoring relationship; and

WHEREAS, young adults are more likely to become successful, healthy adults if caring, concerned adults and role models are available for guidance; and

WHEREAS, mentoring contributes to professional and personal growth for both the mentor and individual being mentored; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) encourage its members to support and participate in mentoring programs for individuals who are interested in the profession of nursing; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA provide a chat room and/or bulletin board for anyone interested in a nursing career to post questions about a career in nursing and to make contact with nursing students, if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA urge its constituent chapters to investigate creating mentoring programs with local middle, junior high, and high schools, pre-nursing programs, colleges and universities; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA send a copy of this resolution to the National Institute for Nursing Research, the American Nurses Association, the National League for Nursing, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the United States Department of Education, the American School Counselor Association, the National Education Association, the National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, and all others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.

**TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF EDUCATION ABOUT THE NEW STANDARDS WHICH REDEFINE NORMAL, PRE-HYPERTENSIVE AND HYPERTENSIVE BLOOD PRESSURES**

**SUBMITTED BY: California Nursing Students' Association Board of Directors**

WHEREAS, about 50 million Americans have high blood pressure but about one third (15 million) do not know it; and

WHEREAS, elevated blood pressure (BP) increases the risk of heart attack, heart failure, stroke, and kidney disease; and

WHEREAS, studies show that the risk of death from heart disease and stroke begins to rise at blood pressures as low as 115 over 75 and doubles for each increase of 20 millimeters of mercury (mmHg) systolic and 10 mmHg diastolic; and

WHEREAS, the new standards for BP are defined as: Normal: BP less than 120 mmHg systolic and less than 80 mmHg diastolic; Pre-hypertension: BP between 120-139 mmHg systolic and between 80-90 mmHg diastolic; Stage 1 Hypertension: BP between 140-159 mmHg systolic and between 90-99 mmHg diastolic; Stage 2 Hypertension: BP greater than 160 mmHg systolic or greater than 100 mmHg diastolic; and

WHEREAS, there is increasing evidence of the relationship between an elevated BP and future problems with heart attack and stroke; with each level of increase in pressure there is increased risk; and

WHEREAS, the relationship between elevated BP and risk of cardiovascular disease events is continuous, consistent and independent of other risk factors; and

WHEREAS, the classification pre-hypertension signals the need for increased education of health care professionals and the public to reduce BP levels and prevent the development of hypertension in the general population; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) encourage inclusion of the new blood pressure (BP) guidelines in nursing curricula; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage its constituents to seek opportunities in their communities to educate healthcare workers and the public about the significance of the new BP guidelines; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA publish articles in *Imprint* regarding the new BP standards, if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to 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 National League for Nursing, the American Heart Association, the American Public Health Association, the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, the American Red Cross, and any others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.

**TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF THE USE OF ALCOHOL-BASED HANDRUBBING SOLUTIONS IN CONJUNCTION WITH REGULAR SOAP AND WATER HANDWASHING BY HEALTHCARE WORKERS IN THE CLINICAL SETTING**

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

WHEREAS, the National Student Nurses' Association Code of Academic and Clinical Conduct supports that, within the academic and clinical environments, nursing students collaborate in every reasonable manner with the academic faculty and clinical staff to ensure the highest quality care; and

WHEREAS, population-based surveillance studies of nosocomial infections in United States hospitals indicate an incidence of between five and ten infections per 1,000 patient days; and

WHEREAS, hand hygiene measures are the single most important strategy for preventing nosocomial infections; and

WHEREAS, during routine patient care, handrubbing with an alcohol-based solution is significantly more efficient in reducing hand contamination than hand washing with antiseptic soap; and

WHEREAS, adherence of healthcare workers to recommended hand hygiene protocols has been poor, with an overall average of 40%; and

WHEREAS, in October 2002, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended the use of alcohol-based handrubs by healthcare personnel for patient care; and

WHEREAS, in an observational study in which 925 opportunities for hand cleansing were observed, the compliance rate, after the implementation of handrubbing with an alcohol-based liquid or gel, increased from 43% to 66%; and

WHEREAS, the CDC recommends that to maximize the acceptance of hand hygiene products by healthcare workers, institutions should solicit input from these employees regarding the feel, fragrance and skin tolerance of any products under consideration; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) support the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's updated hand hygiene guidelines; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage the development of in-service programs for nurses, physicians, and allied health workers on the documented efficacy of alcohol-based handrubbing solutions in curbing the spread of pathogens; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage the inclusion of updated information regarding hand hygiene in nursing curricula; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage further research into the role of nurses in curbing the nosocomial infection rate through hand hygiene; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA publish articles in *Imprint* on the use and development of alcohol-based handrubbing solutions, if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to the American Nurses Association, the National League for Nursing, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the American Organization of Nurse Executives, the National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and any other organizations deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.

**TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED EDUCATION, PREVENTION AND INCREASED AWARENESS OF SCREENING FOR HIV/AIDS AMONG AT-RISK CLIENTS OVER 50 YEARS OF AGE**

**SUBMITTED BY: Mineral Area College Student Nurses Association, Missouri**

WHEREAS, the 1999 National Student Nurses' Association House of Delegates supported increased education for health care providers and the elderly regarding ageism and the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV); and

WHEREAS, from 1990 to 2001, the cumulative number of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) cases in adults age 50 and older has more than quintupled, from 16,288 to 90,513, represented largely by people infected early on who are surviving longer because of improvements in antiviral medication; and

WHEREAS, early symptoms of HIV infection, such as fatigue, poor memory, shortness of breath, sleeplessness and weight loss, may be mistaken for signs of aging, preventing those infected from seeking early medical help that could help them stay healthy and prevent them from transmitting the disease to others; and

WHEREAS, rates of HIV infection (not AIDS) in all seniors are especially difficult to determine, because older people are not routinely being tested; and despite myths and stereotypes, many seniors are sexually active, and some are drug users; therefore, their behaviors can put them at risk for HIV infection; and

WHEREAS, at-risk older adults are approximately one-fifth as likely as at-risk younger adults to have undergone HIV testing and about one-sixth as likely to use a condom during sex; and

WHEREAS, due to the lack of awareness of HIV/AIDS in older adults, this segment of the population, for the most part, has been omitted from research, clinical drug trials, educational prevention programs and intervention efforts; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) encourage the education about screening and prevention efforts for the Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS), by targeting people over 50. Messages regarding risk reduction and safe sex practices should include making elders aware of the window period between infection and development of antibodies used to diagnose HIV and emphasizing the importance of HIV testing; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA educate students, nursing programs and healthcare professionals on the risk factors of HIV/AIDS and the special considerations associated with advanced age via brochures, pamphlets, E-mails and links to websites, if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA send a copy of this resolution to the American Nurses Association, the National League of Nursing, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the American Organization of Nurse Executives, the National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, the American Federation for Aging Research, the American Geriatrics Society, the Gerontological Society of America, the Institute for Advanced Studies in Aging and Geriatric Medicine, the National Council on the Aging, and any others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.

**TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF ENCOURAGING STUDENT NURSES TO JOIN PROFESSIONAL NURSING ORGANIZATIONS UPON GRADUATION**

**SUBMITTED BY: New Jersey Nursing Students**

WHEREAS, the 2002 and 2003 National Student Nurses' Association House of Delegates supported faculty encouragement of nursing students joining pre-professional and professional nursing organizations; and

WHEREAS, there are about 2.6 million registered nurses in the United States; and

WHEREAS, only a little over 190,000 registered nurses are members of either the American Nurses Association and/or the National League for Nursing; and

WHEREAS, there are many professional nurses organizations available; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) encourage its constituents to join professional nursing organizations upon graduation; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA emphasize the importance of professional organizations through articles in *Imprint*, 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 Association of Colleges of Nursing, the Nursing Organizations Alliance and any others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.

**TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF ROUTINE SCREENING REGARDING THE USE OF COMPLEMENTARY AND ALTERNATIVE MEDICINES DURING THE INITIAL PATIENT ASSESSMENT**

**SUBMITTED BY: Orono Student Nurses' Association, University of Maine, Orono**

WHEREAS, the 1998 National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) House of Delegates encouraged integrating complementary therapy into nursing practice; and

WHEREAS, in light of the high degree of use by the public, nurses are faced with the need to understand the effects of alternative supplements when used by their patients; and

WHEREAS, recent research indicates that almost 50 percent of the population in the United States have used Complementary and Alternative Medicines (CAM); and

WHEREAS, the most rapidly growing area of CAM is the use of dietary supplements such as herbs, vitamins, minerals, and other compounds; and

WHEREAS, many prescription drugs such as aspirin, morphine sulfate, codeine phosphate, and digoxin have their origins in herbs; thus, these herbs should be regarded as dilute forms of drugs with possible adverse biological reactions; and

WHEREAS, certain herbal or dietary supplements alter the coagulation status of the blood, and other alternative medicines may cause adverse cardiovascular, sedative, or electrolyte effects, all of which could compromise patient safety; and

WHEREAS, one study found that 70 percent of surgical patients who consumed preoperative alternative medicines did not disclose their use during the anesthetic assessment, and an estimated 72 percent of patients did not inform their medical team when using CAM therapies; and

WHEREAS, it is critical to include CAM in patient assessments because it is possible that the use or misuse of some CAM underlies the cause of their admission; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) encourage the development of policies and curricula in nursing programs to increase education about the pharmacological ramifications of complementary and alternative medication use as it relates to prescription medication use; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA utilize current information about this issue to promote increased awareness about the importance of more complete screening for the use of CAM, through published articles in *Imprint*, chapter education programs, and focus sessions at the NSNA annual conventions, if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage continued education of nursing students, health professionals, and the community through a variety of multimedia materials regarding the necessity for routine screening and documentation of CAM use, and the importance of respectfully eliciting disclosure; 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 Nursing Organizations Alliance, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, the American Holistic Nurses' Association, the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine, and all others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.

**TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED AWARENESS ABOUT THE CONSEQUENCES OF BINGE DRINKING AMONG COLLEGE STUDENTS**

**SUBMITTED BY: University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne, Indiana**

WHEREAS, college students, on average, drink more than their non-college peers of the same age and routinely report negative consequences from their own and others' drinking; and

WHEREAS, more than three-quarters of college students surveyed said they regularly drink enough alcohol to be under the influence more hours per week than the number of hours they are in the classroom; and

WHEREAS, students playing drinking games are more likely to ignore their own limits and continue drinking in a stupor after the point where they would have normally passed out; and

WHEREAS, college students spend \$5.5 billion on alcohol a year, more than they spend on soft drinks, tea, milk, juice, coffee, and schoolbooks combined; and

WHEREAS, binge drinking, defined as consuming five or more drinks in a row for males and four or more for females, significantly increases the risk of experiencing various consequences, including lower grades, physical injury, and problems with the law; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) encourage nursing students, nursing programs, health care professionals, community organizations, high schools and colleges to promote education about the consequences of binge drinking; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA increase awareness of its constituents about the consequences of binge drinking among college students through *Imprint* articles, guest speakers, and focus sessions, if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage its constituents to support alcohol awareness programs that focus on college students, such as the National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week and other programs deemed appropriate; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA send copies of this resolution to the National League for Nursing, the American Nurses Association, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the United States (U.S.) Department of Education, the American School Counselors Association, the U.S. Department of Health, the Prevention Research Institute, the American Association of Colleges and Universities, the Harvard School of Public Health, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the World Health Organization, the Anheuser-Busch Companies, Inc, Students Against Drunk Driving, the National Institute on Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse, and all others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.

**TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF EDUCATION ABOUT VARIOUS MODELS FOR ASSESSING CONTINUED NURSING COMPETENCE**

**SUBMITTED BY: Tennessee Association of Student Nurses**

WHEREAS, the 1997 National Student Nurses' Association House of Delegates supported continuing education as one strategy for maintaining nursing competence; and

WHEREAS, the National Summit on Medical Errors and Patient Safety Research recommends enhancing competency assessments for all health professionals to assure safe practitioners beyond entry into practice; and

WHEREAS, the National Council of State Boards of Nursing defines competence as the application of knowledge and the interpersonal, decision-making, and psychomotor skills expected for the nurse's practice role; and

WHEREAS, consumers, legislators and regulatory agencies continue to raise questions regarding how nurses maintain competence in a rapidly changing healthcare environment; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) encourage all nursing programs to include education regarding the various models of attaining and documenting evidence of continued competency assessment; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA publish an article on this topic on the NSNA website, as well as provide focus sessions at future NSNA events, if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA send copies of this resolution to the American Nurses Association, the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, 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.

**TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION AIMED AT INCREASED EDUCATION ON THE CONSEQUENCES OF A HIGH CALORIE, HIGH FAT DIET**

**SUBMITTED BY: Armstrong Atlantic Association of Nursing Students of Savannah, Georgia**

WHEREAS, obesity is an important public health problem that has reached epidemic proportions; and

WHEREAS, overweight and obese individuals are at risk for type 2 diabetes mellitus coronary artery disease, ischemic cerebral vascular accidents, cholelithiasis and cholecystectomy, non-alcoholic steatohepatitis, osteoarthritis, hyperuricemia, gout, and menstrual irregularities. In addition, they are at risk for colon, endometrial, and post-menopausal breast cancer; and

WHEREAS, increases in high calorie, high fat food availability, lack of adequate exercise, and increased access to televised entertainment may contribute to increasing obesity rates; and

WHEREAS, the Dietary Guidelines for American, as published in *Healthy People 2010*, recommend that persons aged 2 years and older choose a healthful assortment of foods that include vegetables, fruits, grains, fat-free or low fat milk products, fish, lean meat, poultry, or beans; and

WHEREAS, these guidelines further emphasize the importance of choosing foods that are low in saturated fat and added sugars as well as eating a sensible portion size; and

WHEREAS, these guidelines may be particularly challenging when eating out because the consumer may be offered large portion sizes with unknown amounts of saturated fat and added sugars; therefore be it

RESOLVED; that the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) support legislation aimed at increased education on the consequences of a high calorie, high fat diet; and be it further

RESOLVED; that the NSNA support local, state, and national initiatives aimed at enhancing public understanding of health hazards related to high calorie, high fat intake; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA disseminate information about high-calorie, high fat related health consequences through *Imprint* magazine, focus sessions, and by urging constituents to follow suit, 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 National League for Nursing, the American Nurses Association, the United States (U.S.) Department of Health and Human Services, the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Health, the National Center for Early Defibrillation, the American Heart Association, the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, the Food and Drug Administration, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food Safety and Inspection Service, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and any others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.

**TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED AWARENESS AND EDUCATION ABOUT THE NATIONAL MARROW DONOR PROGRAM**

**SUBMITTED BY: Salisbury University Student Nurses Association**

WHEREAS, the 1997, 2001, and 2003 National Student Nurses' Association House of Delegates recognized the importance and awareness of bone marrow donation; and

WHEREAS, bone marrow transplantation is an increasingly preferred method of treatment for patients with aplastic anemia, some forms of leukemia, and certain tumors, such as lymphoma and breast cancer; and

WHEREAS, the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP) connects potential donors who have volunteered to donate their marrow or blood stem cells to any patient, anywhere in the world; and

WHEREAS, at any given time, there is an average of 3,000 patients searching the NMDP Registry; and

WHEREAS, the program estimates that only 30 percent of patients will find a matching donor within their family, leaving the rest to search for an unrelated match; and

WHEREAS, the ideal donor is an identical twin, but siblings are the most common donors, representing 30 percent of the donor pool; an additional 35 percent of patients will find an unrelated donor through the NMDP; and

WHEREAS, tissue traits are inherited; a patient's most likely match is someone of the same race(s), with multiple-race patients facing greater challenges in finding a match; and

WHEREAS, using bone marrow transplants to strike early and aggressively against a particular kind of lymphoma gives patients a better chance of survival than the gentler, standard approaches to treatment, such as chemotherapy; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) promote the awareness of the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP) via articles in the *Imprint* magazine, if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA and its constituents hold a bone marrow screening at their meetings and/or conventions, if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage nursing programs to teach about the NMDP in curricula; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to the American Nurses Association, the National League for Nursing, the National Marrow Donor Program, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the American Medical Association, the National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, the Association of Pediatric Oncology Nurses, the Oncology Nursing Society, the American Red Cross, America's Blood Centers, the United Blood Services, the National Black Nurses Association, and any others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.

**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.

**TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF EDUCATION AND LEGISLATION THAT PROMOTES THE BENEFITS OF BREASTFEEDING**

**SUBMITTED BY: Georgia Association of Nursing Students and the Student Nurses at the University of Pennsylvania**

WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics now recommends exclusive breastfeeding of infants for the first 6 months of life, and the continuation of partial breastfeeding through the first year of life, and that both mothers and their older children benefit from prolonged breastfeeding; and

WHEREAS, breastfeeding has numerous health, social and economic benefits for children, mothers, families, society, and the nation; and

WHEREAS, breastmilk protects infants from infectious, metabolic, allergic and inflammatory diseases; in addition, breastfeeding's protective effects are greatest for otitis media, respiratory infections, and gastrointestinal illnesses. Furthermore, breastfeeding may reduce the risk of type 1 and 2 diabetes, celiac disease, inflammatory bowel disease, cancer, and allergic disease/asthma; and

WHEREAS, the United States lags behind the *Healthy People 2010* goal of 50 percent of women breastfeeding at 6 months of infancy, with only 29 percent currently doing so; and

WHEREAS, mothers report preventable barriers to their ability to freely choose to begin and/or to continue to breastfeed their children, including restrictions on breastfeeding in public; absent or inadequate time, support, and/or facilities in which to express milk at work; lack of exemption from jury duty while breastfeeding; and, lack of consideration of breastfeeding as a pertinent factor in court rulings on custody, visitation rights, and in federal sentencing proceedings; and

WHEREAS, the "Baby-friendly Hospital Initiative," a joint strategy of the World Health Organization and the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, aims to create "baby-friendly" hospitals, where maternity services have adopted practices such as the early initiation of breastfeeding and rooming-in; and

WHEREAS, various states are considering legislation that responds to and prevents these barriers by creating new laws and/or amending existing laws that grant comprehensive protection and support to breastfeeding mothers; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) affirm its commitment to the health of infants and mothers by advocating for national efforts that seek to increase the research and promotion of breastfeeding mothers; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage its constituents to support national and state legislation that promotes, protects, and supports a woman's choice to breastfeed; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA send copies of this resolution to the American Nurses Association, the National League for Nursing, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the American College of Nurse-Midwives, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Society of Pediatric Nurses, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, the American Medical Association, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Association of Neonatal Nurses, La Leche League International, the International Lactation Consultant Association, the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses, the National Black Nurses Association, and any others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.

**TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF PROMOTING SUN SAFETY MEASURES FOR INFANTS, TO REDUCE THE RISK OF SKIN CANCER**

**SUBMITTED BY: Villanova University Student Nurses Association, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

WHEREAS, the 1997 National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) House of Delegates supported education about and early prevention of skin cancer; and

WHEREAS, the 2003 NSNA House of Delegates supported sun protection education for school aged clients; and

WHEREAS, skin cancer is the most common and rapidly increasing form of cancer in the United States (U.S.); and

WHEREAS, 55 million (one out of five) Americans will develop skin cancer in their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, healthy behavior patterns established in early childhood often persist throughout life, and it has been reported that children receive an average of three times more sun exposure than adults; and

WHEREAS, at least 90% of all skin cancers result from excessive exposure to sunlight; and

WHEREAS, 80% of a person's total sun damage occurs before age 18; and

WHEREAS, infants burn more easily than older children because they have thinner skin and undeveloped melanin; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration states that sunscreen should not be used on infants in the first six months of life because human skin at this age may be more permeable, and the physiological mechanisms are not fully developed for metabolism and excretion of absorbed substances; and

WHEREAS, infants should be covered with protective, breathable clothing (long pants, long sleeve shirts, tightly woven fabrics, and dark colors) and accessories (wide brimmed hats and sunglasses); and

WHEREAS, strategies to reduce sun exposure include: covering back seat car windows with tinted window shades while driving, keeping a sun shade/umbrella in the trunks of cars for outdoor activities, and ensuring that infant carriages/strollers have a canopy top that can be adjusted to the direction of the sun's rays; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) encourage its constituents to educate the public, specifically expecting and new mothers, fathers, and caregivers, about sun safety through media articles and chapter programs, if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage its constituents to educate clients to use sun protective measures; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA send copies of this resolution to the American Nurses Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the National League for Nursing, the National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Associates and Practitioners, the National Association of School Nurses, the Dermatology Nurses Association, the Oncology Nursing Society, the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Dermatology, the American Public Health Association, and all others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.