

TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF INCLUDING DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE, AND PRE-CERTIFICATION IN NURSING CURRICULA

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

WHEREAS, the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) has supported disaster preparedness and response related efforts through resolutions in the House of Delegates every year since 2001; and

WHEREAS, natural disaster events have quadrupled over the last 20 years, primarily floods, cyclones, and storms, and the average number of persons affected per year worldwide has increased to 250 million, causing a humanitarian crisis; and within the NSNA's membership, 43% of respondents to the NSNA Disaster Relief Survey reported having experienced a disaster; and

WHEREAS, 84% of respondents to the NSNA Disaster Survey who stated that they had participated in disaster relief work felt it enriched their nursing education, yet 57% reported a need for more education in order to perform competently in a disaster relief situation. In addition, 96% felt that disaster preparedness education should be included in undergraduate curricula; and

WHEREAS, nursing students are now required to understand the basic principles of disaster and emergency planning in order to accurately answer questions on those subjects which fall within the category of Safety and Infection on the NCLEX-RN, which accounts for 8-14% of the total NCLEX-RN subject matter; and

WHEREAS, National Incident Management Systems (NIMS) basic training (IS-100, IS-200, and IS-700 courses) for all potential disaster responders is a requirement for states, territories, tribes and local entities as of fiscal year 2006, in order to be deemed NIMS compliant, which is a requirement for agencies to receive federal disaster preparedness funding; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses' Association encourage nursing programs to include disaster preparedness and response material in their planned curricula in order to adequately prepare students for the NCLEX-RN exam; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage nursing programs to include the National Incident Management Systems (NIMS) training as an elective in their planned curricula; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA promote the importance of disaster preparedness and pre-certification through articles in *Dean's Notes* and *Imprint* where feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA send copies of this resolution to the American Red Cross--Office of the Chief Nurse, the American Nurses Association, the National League for Nursing, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, the National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, the Nursing Organizations Alliance, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and all others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.