

# **RESOLUTIONS 2000**

The resolutions contained in this packet were  
passed by the 2000 NSNA House of Delegates,  
April 12-16 in Salt Lake City, Utah

National Student Nurses' Association, Inc.  
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**TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF NURSING STUDENTS IN THE NATIONAL STUDENT NURSES' ASSOCIATION**

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

WHEREAS, historically, the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) has been an independent organization for nursing students in the United States; and

WHEREAS, "the NSNA is a voluntary organization through which nursing students practice leadership and self-governance, advocate for student rights and the rights of patients, and take collective, responsible action on vital social and political issues," and contribute to nursing education; and

WHEREAS, the NSNA supports a positive image of nursing by educating the general public about the many diverse roles of the professional nurse; and

WHEREAS, participation in the NSNA prepares students for future participation in professional nursing organizations such as the American Nurses Association and the National League for Nursing as well as organizations dedicated to specialty nursing practice; and

WHEREAS, the NSNA is an organization that strives to enhance the professional development of students as well as inspire future nursing leaders; and

WHEREAS, the profession of nursing and the individual nursing student would be adversely affected if the NSNA did not remain a viable and active force; and

WHEREAS, the NSNA offers students valuable benefits that enhance the quality of student life, as well as enhancing the individuals' nursing education; and

WHEREAS, since 1997, the NSNA's membership declined from 33,554 to 25,930 members (average 23%); and

WHEREAS, the 1999-2000 NSNA Board of Directors established a "Leadership-U" program to promote and validate attributes of nursing leadership; therefore be it,

RESOLVED, that the NSNA reaffirm increased recruitment and retention of nursing students in the National Student Nurses' Association by supporting recruitment campaigns at all levels of NSNA; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA reaffirm Breakthrough to Nursing's efforts to recruit those who are underrepresented in the profession of nursing by helping associations to form a Breakthrough to Nursing position; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA support the positive image of nursing by educating the general public of the many diverse roles of the professional nurse; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA support Deans and Faculty members of schools of nursing who are involved in all levels of NSNA; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA support open forums such as *Imprint* and *Deans' Notes* to discuss membership on all levels of the NSNA; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA support the "Leadership U" program and use it as a recruitment tool to validate the leadership skills that the NSNA members are building; 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, National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, and any others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.

**TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF NURSES' PARTICIPATION IN PATIENTS' END OF LIFE CARE**

**SUBMITTED BY: Oregon Student Nurses Association**

WHEREAS, in 1997, over 2.1 million people died in the United States due to a chronic or acute illness; and

WHEREAS, the Medicare program identified 2,287 hospices that served nearly 540,000 patients in 1998; and

WHEREAS, research from the Oregon "Death with Dignity Act" has shown the concerns of patients choosing to end their lives include: the decreasing ability to participate in activities that make life enjoyable, the loss of autonomy, losing control of bodily functions, inadequate pain control, and becoming a burden on family and caregivers; and

WHEREAS, the American Nurses Association (ANA) believes that the nurse's participation in assisted suicide or active euthanasia is in violation of the ANA Code for Nurses and the ethical traditions of the profession; and

WHEREAS, nurses have an obligation to provide maximum comfort and the relief of pain, and at times, forego life-sustaining treatments; and

WHEREAS, according to the Patient Self-Determination Act endorsed by the ANA, nurses have the responsibility to participate in public education, research, patient care, advocacy, education of the profession and education of other health care providers; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) support the nurse's role as a patient advocate, palliative caregiver, and researcher in end of life care; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA engage in continuing dialog and encourage research that may lead to improved end of life care; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage its constituents to collaborate with faculty to include end of life issues in nursing school curricula; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage its constituents to support legislation and health care system policy concerning a nurse's role in end of life care; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA send copies of this resolution to the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, National Institute for Nursing Research, the American Nurses Association, the National League for Nursing, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, the Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association, the Hospice Association of America, and any others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.

**TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF ENHANCED RECRUITMENT EFFORTS BEGINNING AT THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LEVEL TO COMPENSATE FOR THE ESCALATING NURSING SHORTAGE**

**SUBMITTED BY: North Carolina Association of Nursing Students**

WHEREAS, the national average age of a nurse is 45 years old; and  
WHEREAS, in 1996, only 9 percent of Registered Nurses were under the age of 30; and  
WHEREAS, "nursing-school enrollments have been down 5 to 6 percent a year for the past four years;" and  
WHEREAS, projections of supply and requirements for full time equivalent Registered Nurses reflect a crisis level shortage by the year 2020 due to the aging workforce; and  
WHEREAS, "more than 1 million nurses will be needed before 2020, and fewer than 600,000 will be available;" therefore be it  
RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) encourage its constituents to support enhanced recruitment efforts among younger populations, beginning in elementary schools, as a Breakthrough to Nursing (BTN) Project; and be it further that  
RESOLVED, the implementation guidelines and outcome criteria of the Breakthrough to Nursing Project be printed in the *Imprint*, if feasible; and be it further  
RESOLVED, that the NSNA send a copy of this resolution along with information about NSNA's Breakthrough to Nursing Program to the American Nurses Association, the National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the National Education Association, the National League for Nursing, the Division of Nursing at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and any others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.

**TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED COMMUNITY KNOWLEDGE AND AWARENESS CONCERNING POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER**

**SUBMITTED BY: Salisbury State University's Student Nurses Association, Maryland**

WHEREAS, Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is a serious anxiety provoking condition that plagues a portion of the population who have been exposed to an emotionally traumatic event, and has a lifetime prevalence ranging from 1-14%; and

WHEREAS, "people with PTSD persistently re-experience the event in at least one of several ways: recurrent distressing dreams, recurrent recollections of the event, a sense of reliving the experience (flash backs), and intense distress at events that symbolize an aspect of the event (such as anniversaries);" and

WHEREAS, 15% of people who experience some sort of trauma will develop PTSD; and

WHEREAS, PTSD affects 10% of the population and it "often occurs with--or leads to--other psychiatric illnesses, such as depression;" and

WHEREAS, "being diagnosed with PTSD increases the risk of developing an alcohol use disorder;" and

WHEREAS, substance dependence occurs more frequently in females suffering from PTSD and may result "from repeated substance use to deaden the psychic discomfort of PTSD;" and

WHEREAS, in 1986-1988, a National Vietnam Veterans Readjustment Survey (NVVRS) was conducted that found "15.2% of all male Vietnam theater [sic war] veterans (479,000 out of 3,140,000 men who served in Vietnam) and 8.1% of all female Vietnam theater veterans (610 out of 7200 women who served in Vietnam) are current cases of PTSD;" and

WHEREAS, the NVVRS also found that "the estimated lifetime prevalence of PTSD among Vietnam theater veterans is 30.9% for men and 26.9% for women;" and

WHEREAS, "veterans over the age of 65 with PTSD are at increased risk for attempted suicide if they experience problematic alcohol use or depression;" therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) emphasize the importance of promoting worldwide education and awareness of the prevalence of PTSD by encouraging its constituents to participate in community projects; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA communicate current information to promote better understanding and awareness of PTSD via articles in *Imprint* and various education programs, if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage community PTSD support meetings to facilitate open communication and promote holistic health of those suffering from PTSD; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage its constituents to collaborate with health care professionals to provide education about PTSD to colleagues and the public who work in highly traumatic fields; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA support the establishment of a nationwide PTSD day with its mission being to promote worldwide education on this anxiety disorder; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA send copies of this resolution to the American Nurses Association, the American Psychiatric Nurses Association, the American Medical Association, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the American Academy of Experts in Traumatic Stress, the American Health Care Association, the National Institute of Mental Health, the National League for Nursing, the National Nurses Society on Addictions, the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, the National Institute for the Clinical Application of Behavioral Medicine, the National Center for Post-traumatic Stress Disorder, the United States Veteran Administration, the National Naval Officers Association, the United States Naval Institute, the Air Force ROTC, the United States Army Cadet Command Headquarters, the United States Department of Education, the Anxiety Disorders Association of America, the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies, the Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Nurses, the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International, and all others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.

**TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED AWARENESS AND EDUCATION OF SCLERODERMA**

**SUBMITTED BY: Florida Nursing Students' Association**

WHEREAS, Scleroderma is a chronic autoimmune disorder that causes an overproduction of collagen in the body's connective tissue; and

WHEREAS, the cause of Scleroderma is unknown and, currently, there is no method to prevent Scleroderma; and

WHEREAS, the treatment of Scleroderma relies solely on therapies and medications to manage symptoms of the disorder; and

WHEREAS in the localized form of the disorder, the skin is affected by progressive hardening which can be disfiguring, painful, and crippling; and

WHEREAS, in the systemic form of the disorder, hardening of the skin, blood vessels, kidneys, gastrointestinal tract, lungs and heart occur resulting in organ failure; and

WHEREAS, published estimates of the incidence of Scleroderma in the U.S. range from 300,000 to 500,000; and

WHEREAS, women are 4 times more likely than men to be afflicted by this disorder with the average onset occurring between 20 and 40 years of age; and

WHEREAS, these estimates may be low since Scleroderma is often unrecognized or misdiagnosed due to symptoms that mimic other autoimmune disorders, there is a lack of a definitive diagnostic tool, as well as lack of funding for a national registry of patients to help provide imperative information for researchers of this disorder; and

WHEREAS, Scleroderma imposes an estimated \$1.5 billion in direct costs (to include medical and research) and indirect costs (to include mortality and morbidity) on the U.S. economy; and

WHEREAS, and research accounts for only 0.2% of these total costs; and

WHEREAS, increased emphasis on the need for research and treatment monies would serve to reduce the high cost and increase the cure rate of this chronic disorder; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) support increased awareness and education of healthcare professionals and the public through community projects, if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA provide information on awareness and education of Scleroderma through. Imprint articles, if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage its constituents to participate in fund-raising projects to support research regarding this insidious disorder, if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA send copies of this resolution to the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, the American Nurses Association, the National League for Nursing, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the National Institute of Nursing Research, the Scleroderma Foundation, the Scleroderma Research Foundation, and all others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.

**TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF PROMOTING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR CONTRACEPTION**

**SUBMITTED BY: The Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center Student Nurses' Association**

WHEREAS, 49% of all typical large group health insurance plans do not routinely cover any contraceptive at all and only 15% cover all five reversible methods; and

WHEREAS, Viagra may be covered by insurance plans that do not cover contraception because impotence is considered a medical problem while pregnancy prevention is viewed as a "lifestyle choice;" and

WHEREAS, the extent to which health insurance covers women's health care services affects women's out of pocket expenditures and often determines whether or not women seek care; and

WHEREAS, women of childbearing age pay 56% of the cost of contraceptives out of pocket; and

WHEREAS, unintended pregnancy also increases the likelihood that the child will have a low birth weight, die in the first year of life, be abused, and not receive sufficient resources for healthy development; and

WHEREAS, excluding miscarriages, 49% of pregnancies in 1994 were unintended; 54% of these pregnancies ended in abortion. Forty-eight percent of women aged 15-44 in 1994 had had at least one unplanned pregnancy in their lives; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) educate its members about the importance of insurance coverage of contraception via *Imprint* and/or workshops at convention, if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED that the NSNA encourage its members to support legislation that mandates insurance coverage for contraception; and be it further

RESOLVED that the NSNA support all community health organizations in their endeavors to make mandated insurance coverage for contraception a reality; 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, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, the House Committee on Labor Health and Human Services, and Education, and any others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.

**TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF AGGRESSIVE PAIN MANAGEMENT IN  
SUBSTANCE ABUSERS**

**SUBMITTED BY: New Jersey Nursing Students, Inc.**

WHEREAS, the 1995 House of Delegates supported the use of medication and alternative pain management therapies; and

WHEREAS, pain is defined as "whatever the experiencing person says it is, existing whenever he says it does;" and

WHEREAS, the Agency for Health Care Research and Quality (AHRQ) guidelines state that ALL patients are entitled to be free of pain, including patients who are addicted or have a history of substance abuse; and

WHEREAS, "quality pain management- begins with the affirmation by healthcare professionals that patients should have access to the best level of pain relief that can be safely provided. Each institution should develop the resources necessary to provide the best and most modern pain relief appropriate to its patients;" and

WHEREAS, the Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPG) remind nurses that "the complex physiologic, behavioral, and psychological phenomena associated with drug addiction in no way exclude the ability to perceive painful stimuli;" and

WHEREAS, the nurse's professional responsibility is to accept, respect, and respond to the patient's report of pain; and

WHEREAS, the pain experience can be harmful to patients by causing unnecessary suffering and may delay the healing process; increasing metabolic rate, blood clotting, and water retention; preventing postoperative patients from coughing and deep breathing adequately; interfering with sleep; delaying the return of normal gastric and bowel function; limiting mobility and ambulation; and, impairing the immune system; and

WHEREAS, addiction is a chronic, relapsing disease and is not necessarily specific to a particular drug and that "pseudoaddiction," which may resemble addiction, in fact represents responses to unrelieved pain or anxiety; and

WHEREAS, pseudoaddiction occurs when the patient's pain is not adequately relieved with the prescribed opiate analgesic regimen and this type of behavior will cease when the pain is well controlled; and

WHEREAS, a patient may develop a "therapeutic dependence" which causes the patient to exhibit drug seeking behavior resulting from a fear of the possibility of recurrent pain or running short of the medication; and

WHEREAS, unrelieved pain in itself can often trigger relapse because it is considered a familiar coping mechanism and will ease the patient's pain; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) encourage all members to support aggressive pain management in substance abusers; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage all members to assess and identify the importance of adequate pain management in all patients as well as in substance abusers; and be it further

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

**TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED HEALTHCARE WORKER PARTICIPATION IN BLOOD DRIVES IN LIGHT OF THE NATIONAL BLOOD SHORTAGE**

**SUBMITTED BY: Emory Student Nurses Association, Georgia**

WHEREAS, the United States Surgeon General warns that the demand for blood may exceed supply by the year 2000, while the National Blood Data Resource Center predicts a shortfall of 249,000 units by 2000; and

WHEREAS, the Red Cross estimates that someone needs blood every two seconds in the U.S. Emergencies and seasonal shortages can further drain the blood supply, causing frequent shortages of type O and B blood, and shortages of all types in the summer and winter; and

WHEREAS, less than 5 percent of an eligible 60 percent of Americans donate blood each year, and those who do not cite ineligibility and inconvenience as their main reasons; and

WHEREAS, one unit of blood can be used as whole blood, or it can be broken down into components such as red blood cells, platelets, factor concentrates, or granulocytes, and given to more than one recipient; and

WHEREAS, blood components are essential treatment for a variety of serious health problems. Red blood cells are transfused for anemia, platelets for thrombocytopenia associated with cancer treatment, and plasma for immunodeficiencies and warfarin reversal. Factor concentrates provide factor VIII for hemophiliacs, while cryoprecipitates are important for clients with liver failure, coagulopathies, sepsis, and burns. Lastly, granulocytes are used to treat the recipients of bone marrow and stem cell transplants; and

WHEREAS, blood donation does not put the donor at risk for acquiring bloodborne pathogens; and

WHEREAS, educating the public about the blood shortage and the importance of blood donation is a function that nurses and nursing students are well-positioned to perform; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) heighten awareness about the national shortage of both whole blood and blood components, and the safety and ease of donation, through *Imprint* magazine and public media, if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage eligible members to become regular donors; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA and its constituents, in partnership with the American Red Cross and/or other organizations as appropriate, publicize and organize blood drives on local campuses and in the community, for the purpose of making donation more accessible to the public, if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA explore the possibilities of conducting blood drives at future NSNA Conventions, and encourage state nursing organizations to follow suit; 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 American Red Cross, the American Association of Blood Banks, and any others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.

**TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF NURSING RESEARCH AND INCREASED FUNDING FOR THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF NURSING RESEARCH AT THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH**

**SUBMITTED BY: Medical College of Ohio, School of Nursing**

WHEREAS, optimum nursing practice is scientifically valid; and  
WHEREAS, discovery of scientific validity depends upon research; and  
WHEREAS, the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) at the National Institutes of Health is the primary source of support for nursing research, and  
WHEREAS, NINR supported research has discovered ways to reduce the number of low birth weight babies, shorten the length of hospital stays of high-risk elderly, and facilitate safe early discharges with follow-up by advanced practice nurses; and  
WHEREAS, NINR-funded researchers identified pain reducing drugs that work better for women, found ways to reduce high blood pressure among young African American men, and discovered how to improve the condition of Hispanics with arthritis or diabetes; and  
WHEREAS, NINR sponsors five Core Centers to concentrate on women's health, care of chronically ill, gerontological nursing interventions, serious illness, and pain management, and  
WHEREAS, NINR supports the training of new nurse researchers; and NINR is the lowest funded institute at NIH and received the smallest increase in fiscal year 1999; and  
WHEREAS, NINR will be able to fund only 20% of its applications for research support compared to an average of 33% for NIH as a whole; therefore be it  
RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) encourage its constituents to contact their legislators to advocate a \$20 million increase in federal appropriations to NINR for Fiscal Year 2001; and be it further  
RESOLVED, that the NSNA include information about this issue in *Imprint*, if feasible; and be it further  
RESOLVED, that the NSNA send a copy of this resolution to the Director of the NIH, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the U.S. Speaker of the House, the President of the U.S. Senate, and any other individuals or organizations deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.

**TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED AWARENESS AN EDUCATION OF BABY BOTTLE TOOTH DECAY (BBTD)**

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

WHEREAS, "nursing bottle caries, nursing caries, milk bottle syndrome, and  
WHEREAS, baby bottle caries are all terms that have been used to identify a specific form of rampant  
WHEREAS, caries in the primary teeth of preschool children;" and  
WHEREAS, there is no universal consensus on the name or case definition for this affliction. The most  
WHEREAS, popular term, Baby Bottle Tooth Decay (BBTD), was coined by the Healthy Mothers,  
WHEREAS, Healthy Babies Coalition to acknowledge what was considered the main predisposing  
WHEREAS, factor and a name easily understood by lay persons; and  
WHEREAS, nursing caries is a pattern of dental caries that affects roughly 5 to 8 percent of American  
WHEREAS, children under the age of five; and  
WHEREAS, "a higher prevalence of dental caries is generally found among minority children,  
WHEREAS, including blacks, Hispanics, and Native Americans from poor and low income families;"  
WHEREAS, and  
WHEREAS, tooth decay occurs when a combination of food products high in fermentable  
WHEREAS, carbohydrates (including milk, formula, or juice), along with oral bacteria and saliva,  
WHEREAS, remain in contact with the oral cavity for a duration of time, and is a process that begins  
WHEREAS, on the lingual or tongue side of the teeth, which is an area difficult to visualize; and  
WHEREAS, breastfeeding has been supported as the ideal method of infant feeding by major health  
WHEREAS, care organizations and, "breast feeding, prolonged and on demand after tooth eruption, has  
WHEREAS, been indicted in the same way as a bottle in causing nursing caries or Baby Bottle Tooth  
WHEREAS, Decay; and  
WHEREAS, "Baby Bottle Tooth Decay may result in tooth loss, malformation of the dental arch, and the  
WHEREAS, need for orthodontics when the permanent teeth come in. Damage is often severe enough to  
WHEREAS, cause the loss of the child's front teeth by two to three years of age, several years before  
WHEREAS, they will be replaced with permanent teeth;" and  
WHEREAS, "nursing caries may cause destruction of these teeth, leading to problems with speech  
WHEREAS, articulation and mastication, poor nutrition, and lower self esteem;" and  
WHEREAS, the American Dietetic Association guidelines for prevention of BBTD include, but are not  
WHEREAS, limited to, refraining from filling bottles or coating pacifiers with carbohydrate substances,  
WHEREAS, cleansing gums and tooth eruption sites with clean wash cloths, gauze or baby tooth brush,  
WHEREAS, and promoting the bottle weaning process by introducing a cup at six months of age; and  
WHEREAS, the American Association of Pediatric Dentistry recommends that a postnatal visit for oral  
WHEREAS, evaluation should occur within six months of tooth eruption and not later than 12 months  
WHEREAS, of age; and  
WHEREAS, BBTD should be a concern for all professionals who work with expectant and new mothers  
WHEREAS, and very young children, and nurses can help promote good oral health for children by  
WHEREAS, educating expectant and new mothers, children and others who work with mothers and  
WHEREAS, children in preventing BBTD; therefore be it  
RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) encourage its members to  
RESOLVED, support the American Dietetic Association Baby Bottle Tooth Decay prevention  
RESOLVED, guidelines; and be it further  
RESOLVED, that the NSNA provide current information on awareness and education about BBTD  
RESOLVED, through *Imprint* articles and education programs, if feasible; and be it further  
RESOLVED, that the NSNA send copies of this resolution to the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry,  
RESOLVED, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Dietetic Association, the American Nurses  
RESOLVED, Association, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the American Public Health  
RESOLVED, Association, the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nurses, the National  
RESOLVED, Association of Pediatric Nurse Associates and Practitioners, the National League for Nursing,  
RESOLVED, and any other organizations deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.

**TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF CONTINUED RESEARCH OF THE GENETIC ROLE IN THE TREATMENT OF BREAST CANCER**

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

WHEREAS, breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths in women; and  
WHEREAS, "two breast cancer susceptibility genes- BRCA1 on chromosome 17 and BRCA2 on chromosome 13- may account for most inherited breast cancers;" and  
WHEREAS, "breast cancers associated with inherited BRCA1 and BRCA2 gene mutations differ from each other in their histopathologic appearances and that each of these types differs from breast cancers in patients unselected for family history;" and  
WHEREAS, cancers associated with BRCA1 mutations show higher mitotic counts and more lymphocytic infiltration than sporadic cancers, while cancers associated with BRCA2 mutations show less tubule formation and a lower mitotic count than sporadic cancers; and  
WHEREAS, the differences in the natural history of breast cancers due to BRCA1, BRCA2, or sporadic disease may influence the screening and clinical management of these cancers in the future; and  
WHEREAS, the emotional impact of genetic testing on the patient must also be considered; and  
WHEREAS, because genetic test results may affect a patient's quality of life, subsequent compliance with mammographic screenings and clinical breast exams, and the emotions of family members, it is important to help patients come to an informed choice; therefore be it  
RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) support the continued research of BRCA1 and BRCA2 gene mutations and their potential impact on screening and clinical management; and be it further  
RESOLVED, that the NSNA provide current information about breast cancer and genetic research through articles in *Imprint* and educational programs, if feasible; and be it further  
RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage its individual members and local chapters to continue to support breast cancer research and education; and be it further  
RESOLVED, that the NSNA send copies of this resolution to the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the American Cancer Society, the American College of Nurse Practitioners, the American Nurses Association, the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nurses, the National League for Nursing, the Oncology Nursing Society, and all others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.

**TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF EDUCATION ON THE PREVENTION AND THE CONSEQUENCES OF ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE**

**SUBMITTED BY: Grand View College, Iowa; Texas Nursing Students' Association**

WHEREAS, in the United States alone, an estimated 100 million unnecessary antibiotic prescriptions are written annually and in one year 13,300 hospital patients died from bacterial infections that were resistant to antibiotic treatment; and

WHEREAS, consequences of antibiotic resistance include the following: decreased ability to cure the infection; increased morbidity and mortality; greater health costs through expensive isolation procedures; longer hospital stays; more drug investigations; and utilization of new expensive, toxic, and more complicated antibiotics; and

WHEREAS, strains of at least three bacterial species capable of causing life-threatening illnesses (*Enterococcus faecalis*, *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*) already evade every available antibiotic; and

WHEREAS, in 1941, all strains of *Staphylococcus aureus* (*S. aureus*) were susceptible to penicillin. Today, ninety percent of all *S. aureus* strains are penicillin resistant; and

WHEREAS, a variety of preventable human practices have contributed to the rise of antibiotic resistance: the over-prescription of antibiotics, patient demand for antibiotics to treat viral infections, the failure of patients to follow prescribed treatment, the use of antibiotics by immunosuppressed patients to prevent infections, and the treatment of acne with long-term, low dose antibiotics; and

WHEREAS, the control of antibiotic use can decrease the number of antibiotics distributed per admission, decrease the number of antibiotic resistant nosocomial infections, and decrease antimicrobial expenditures; and

WHEREAS, antimicrobial compounds mixed with soaps, lotions and other common household products destroy the skin's natural flora and ultimately promote the growth of resistant bacteria; and

WHEREAS, a major segment of the general population is unaware of the harmful effects of misusing antibiotics and using antimicrobials; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) encourage health care facilities and local NSNA Chapters to support implementation of antibiotic resistance education for nursing students, other health care professionals, and the general public; and be it further

RESOLVED that the NSNA encourage its constituents to participate in community service projects related to this issue; and be it further

RESOLVED that the NSNA send copies of this resolution to the American Nurses Association, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the American Hospital Association, the National League for Nursing, and to any other organization deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.

**TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF TOBACCO SETTLEMENT FUND USAGE FOR HEALTH CARE**

**SUBMITTED BY: Student Nurses' Association of Arizona**

WHEREAS more than forty states, territories, and commonwealths and several participating tobacco manufacturers have agreed to settle tobacco-related lawsuits which will allow funding for the advancement of public health, the implementation of important tobacco-related public health measures, including the enforcement of the mandates and restrictions related to such measures, as well as funding for a national Foundation dedicated to significantly reducing the use of tobacco products by youth; and

WHEREAS many competing special interest groups are proposing legislation to allocate the funds for non-health care issues; and

WHEREAS one out of six Americans have inadequate or no health insurance and there are as many as 44 million Americans without health care coverage; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) support legislation by the settling states receiving tobacco settlement money that directs the use of these monies to provide health care including the underinsured and uninsured people of each state, U.S. Territory, and Commonwealth, so that all may have access to quality health care, and/or for "the advancement of public health, the implementation of important tobacco-related public health measures, including the enforcement of the mandates and restrictions related to such measures, as well as funding for a national Foundation dedicated to significantly reducing the use of tobacco products by youth;" and be it further

RESOLVED that the NSNA encourage its constituents to contact their individual state legislators regarding Tobacco Settlement Fund Usage; and be it further

RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the President of the United States, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Governors of all the Settling States, Territories, and Commonwealths of the United States, the American Nurses Association, the National League for Nursing, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, and others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.

**TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF MANDATORY FINANCIAL COMPENSATION FOR NEEDLE-STICK INJURIES IN NURSING STUDENTS**

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

WHEREAS, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration estimates that 5.6 million workers in the health care industry are at risk for occupational exposure to bloodborne pathogens; and

WHEREAS, healthcare workers sustain more than 600,000 needle-stick and sharps injuries each year; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Phlebotomy Association report up to 12,000 clinicians are infected with Hepatitis B virus (HBV) annually; and

WHEREAS, upward of 200 health care professionals die annually from occupationally acquired diseases; and

WHEREAS, probability of infection following a discrete exposure to blood containing HBV due to needle-stick injury is 1.9 - 40%, Hepatitis C virus 0.6 - 10%, and Human Immunodeficiency Virus 0.2 - 0.4%; and

WHEREAS, licensed nurses make up 24% of the cases of HIV infections among the health care workers known or thought to have been infected on the job; and

WHEREAS, the cost of follow-up for a high-risk exposure is almost \$3,000 per needle-stick injury even when no infection occurs; and

WHEREAS, nearly 1 in 7 college students have no form of health insurance; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) encourage schools of nursing to collaborate with clinical facilities and/or legislators to provide financial compensation that includes treatment of needle-stick injuries, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage schools of nursing to work with their clinical facility advisory committees to document efforts to prevent needle-stick injuries in the clinical setting; 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 and any others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.

**TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF PUBLIC AWARENESS FOR PATHOLOGICAL GAMBLING AS AN ADDICTION AND HEALTHCARE ISSUE**

**SUBMITTED BY: Chaffey College Nursing Student Association, Rancho Cucamonga, California**

WHEREAS, historically, gambling has existed in almost every known culture; gambling permeates all levels of society in the United States; and

WHEREAS, 75% to 90% of Americans report gambling to some extent; and

WHEREAS, pathological gambling was recognized as a disorder of impulse control in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual; and

WHEREAS, gambling occurs as an addiction in four distinct phases and will impact the physical as well as psychological well-being of the individual and family; and

WHEREAS, the Nevada Gaming Commission adopted NGC Regulation 5.170 that requires all gaming licensees post or provide written materials concerning the nature and symptoms of problem gambling and the toll free problem Gamblers Helpline number; and

WHEREAS, NGC Regulation 5.170 further requires approved training of all employees who directly interact with gaming customers; and

WHEREAS, nurses can aid in the prevention of pathological gambling and early detection of gambling of pathological gambling addiction by increasing public awareness of gambling as a healthcare issue; therefore be it

RESOLVED, the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) support public awareness education, treatment, prevention and research for pathological gambling addiction as a healthcare issue; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage its constituents in states which have legalized gambling to explore strategies and to support development of guidelines similar to those in Nevada; 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 American Medical Association, Gamblers Anonymous, and any other organization deemed appropriate by NSNA.