

TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF TOBACCO FREE NURSES, NURSING STUDENTS, AND MEDICAL CAMPUSES

SUBMITTED BY: California State University, Sacramento-Division of Nursing, the State of Idaho Student Nurses' Association, and the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing, Baltimore, Maryland

WHEREAS, tobacco use is the leading cause of death in the United States; and

WHEREAS, “each year environmental tobacco smoke kills an estimated 35,000 to 65,000 adult non-smokers from heart disease and 3,000 non-smokers from lung cancer,” making it a major health concern; and

WHEREAS, “even the smell of smoke on clothes can trigger asthma symptoms in a child with sensitive airways”; and

WHEREAS, reports of the prevalence of smoking among nursing students is 13.5% (four times higher than observed among medical students) and 16% of the nation’s registered nurses smoke; and

WHEREAS, nurses who smoke take more breaks, spend less time with patients, and are less likely to participate in smoking cessation interventions with their patients; and

WHEREAS, “on-site smoking cessation programs make it easier to implement smoke-free workplaces and increase the benefits for employees and employers”; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses’ Association (NSNA) encourage its constituents to support the initiative of the Tobacco Free Nurses as well as the goal of the American Nurses Association to reduce and prevent tobacco related morbidity and mortality; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA and its members encourage healthcare facilities to adopt on-site smoking cessation programs and treatment options free of charge to staff; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage its constituents to collaborate with nursing programs to include education about smoking cessation programs in their curricula; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage its constituents to work with legislators to expand the existing ban on smoking in public places to include all healthcare facilities; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage the publication of information related to the benefits of a smoke-free nursing staff and healthcare facilities in *Imprint* and other nursing periodicals, 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 American Cancer Society, the American Heart Association, the American Lung Association, the American Medical Association, the American Nurses Association, the American Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, the American Public Health Association, the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, the National League for Nursing, the Tobacco Free Nurses, the National Coalition of Ethnic Minority Nurse Associations, the United States Food and Drug Administration, and all others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.