

**TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF RESEARCH AND EDUCATION FOR QUALITY PEDIATRIC PALLIATIVE CARE**

**SUBMITTED BY: Maryland Association of Nursing Students Board of Directors**

WHEREAS, “approximately 400,000 American children live everyday with chronic, life-threatening conditions”; and

WHEREAS, “there are 78 million children aged 0-19 in the U.S. Eighteen percent suffer from a chronic health condition that compromises the child’s quality of life (e.g. asthma)”; and

WHEREAS, “palliative care has always been a part of the care of children. It includes any intervention that focuses on relieving suffering, slowing the progression of disease, and improving quality of life at any stage of disease”; and

WHEREAS, “pediatric palliative care programs provide valuable services to children with life-limiting illnesses and their families that help to alleviate pain, manage symptoms, and provide psychosocial support”; and

WHEREAS, “palliative care is further upstream in healthcare delivery, targeting children with complex chronic and/or life-threatening illnesses from the time of diagnosis”; and

WHEREAS, “the importance of palliative care in the care of pediatric patients has been emphasized in the Institute of Medicine landmark report, *When Children Die*, which delineated the need for significant improvement in the palliative, end-of-life, and bereavement care received by this population”; and

WHEREAS, “inadequate data and scientific knowledge impede efforts to deliver effective care, educate professionals to provide such care, and design supportive public policies”; and

WHEREAS, “national experts have recognized a need for increased research in pediatric palliative care”; and

WHEREAS, “in order to meet current and future needs for palliative care, educational opportunities must be available for nurses and other health care professionals to acquire the necessary knowledge and skills regarding principals and practice of palliative care”; and

WHEREAS, in 2002 the National Student Nurses’ Association passed the resolution *Enhancing and Increasing Palliative Care Education*; and

WHEREAS, “better care is possible now, but we also need better data and scientific knowledge to guide efforts to deliver more effective care, educate professionals to provide such care, and design supportive public policies”; and

WHEREAS, “high-quality pediatric palliative care should be an expected standard in the United States, especially since the publication of the numerous position statements such as “Precepts of Palliative Care for Children and Adolescents and Their Families, a joint statement created by the Association of Pediatric Oncology Nurses, the National Association of Neonatal Nurses, and the Society of Pediatric Nurses”; and

WHEREAS, “improved palliative care for children must become a priority of our society and our healthcare system”; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses’ Association (NSNA) and its constituents encourage interdisciplinary education and research on pediatric palliative care; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage the inclusion of education on research-based pediatric palliative care in nursing school curricula; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage state and local Student Nurses’ Association chapters to host focus sessions centered on the implementation of research-based pediatric palliative care, if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA and its constituents encourage research on pediatric palliative care, if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED,

that the NSNA publish articles on the implementation of research based pediatric palliative care in *Imprint* and on the NSNA website, if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED,

that the NSNA send a copy of this resolution to the American Organization of Nurse Executives, the National League for Nursing, the Credentialing Center for Nursing Education, the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the American Nurses Association, the Council on Education for Public Health, the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Hospice and Palliative Care Nurses Association, the Oncology Nursing Society, the Association of Women's Health, the Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses, the Society of Pediatric Nurses, National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, and any others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.