

TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF REVISING THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION’S POLICY THAT BANS THE DONATION OF BLOOD PRODUCTS FROM ANY MAN WHO HAS HAD SEX WITH ANOTHER MAN (MSM)

SUBMITTED BY: Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing, Seminole State College of Florida, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences - Hope

- WHEREAS, in 2006 the National Student Nurses’ Association (NSNA) adopted the resolution “In Support of the Revision of the Current Blood Donation Policy that Imposes a Lifetime Deferral on Any Man Who Has Had Sex with Another Man (MSM) Since 1977;” and
- WHEREAS, the American Red Cross consistently reports the nation’s blood supply to be at critically low levels, reflecting a drastic shortage in the number of eligible, voluntary donors; and
- WHEREAS, current Food and Drug Administration (FDA) policy permanently defers the donation of blood from “men who have had sex with another man even one time since 1977;” and
- WHEREAS, it is estimated that over 2.6 million men would become eligible to donate if the current ban were lifted, which could substantially reduce the nation’s chronic blood shortage; and
- WHEREAS, current standards for blood screening use the modern nucleic acid testing (NAT) screening method in addition to antibody testing, which is able to detect HIV and Hepatitis C less than two weeks post-infection; and
- WHEREAS, detecting these viruses within a shorter post-infection window significantly decreases transfusion-transmitted infections; and
- WHEREAS, the current risk-based assessment questionnaire may fail to correctly identify high-risk donors while unnecessarily deferring healthy individuals; and
- WHEREAS, the American Red Cross, AABB (American Association of Blood Banks), America’s Blood Centers, and other organizations are in favor of revising the current blood donor deferral criteria for MSM; therefore be it
- RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses’ Association (NSNA) urge the FDA to modify donor questionnaires to screen for high-risk behaviors rather than demographics, such as sexual orientation; and be it further
- RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage its constituents to support further awareness and education of the need to revise the current national MSM blood donor policy; and be it further
- RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage its constituents to collaborate with national and local blood collection agencies to provide information to the public concerning blood donation and deferral policies; and be it further
- RESOLVED, that the NSNA promote this awareness by publishing an article based on accurate and up-to-date information concerning blood donations and deferral policies in *Imprint* and any other professional publications deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors, if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED,

that the NSNA send a copy of this resolution to the FDA, the United States Department of Health and Human Services, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the American Red Cross, AABB, America's Blood Centers, the Institute of Medicine, the Human Rights Campaign, the American Nurses Association, the Infusion Nurses Society, the National League for Nursing, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, the American Public Health Association, the American Medical Association-Medical Student Section, the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association, the Williams Institute, and all others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.