



American Nurses Association-Maine

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RESOLUTION

TITLE: DISASTER PREPAREDNESS IN MAINE

WHEREAS,

Recent terrorism and subsequent biological events have reinforced the necessity that an organized, efficient, reliable mechanism be found to ensure adequate resources and coordination of health-care services during natural, biological, chemical, and radiation disasters, and

WHEREAS,

Registered Nurses are essential front-line health-care providers, and

WHEREAS,

Appropriate provider education, training, and the use of sound emergency management protocols are essential to allow nurses and other health-care providers to deliver safe (for victims and providers), quality emergency care under a variety of stressful circumstances, and

WHEREAS,

Currently, there are not an adequate number of Registered Nurses in Maine currently trained and prepared to respond to Maine citizens were such a disaster to occur in our state, and

WHEREAS,

ANA-MAINE supports Registered Nurses' involvement in health policy formation as being essential to developing quality health-care systems, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMERICAN NURSES ASSOCIATION-MAINE:

1. Supports efforts to assure that an adequate number of Maine Registered Nurses receive disaster/ emergency preparedness education and training to allow an effective response to the disaster/emergency health-care needs of Maine citizens.
2. Supports the establishment of a sufficient number of volunteer nurse corps members under the auspices of the United States Public Health Service who could respond to local and national disasters/ emergencies, and
3. Supports legislative efforts to assure that Maine citizens have a plan that provides an adequate response to natural, biological, chemical, and radiation disasters, and
4. Supports the establishment of workplace initiatives that support work release benefits and protections to allow Registered Nurses to be part of organized, health-care rescue teams during disasters.

SPONSORED BY:

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ANA-MAINE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: E. Connolly (Scarborough), C. Harriman (Bangor), S. Henderson (South Portland), J. L'Heureux (Brunswick), J. Niemczura (Ellsworth), M. Ogonowski (Franklin), N. Byrne Vincent (South Portland).

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN:

The ANA-MAINE Membership shall empower the Board of Directors to release to each national and state nursing organization and to the general media a supportive statement announcing and affirming this resolution.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Cost of clerical support, postage and news releases.

ADOPTED: 10/5/02