



American Nurses Association-Maine

info@anamaine.org
www.anamaine.org

RESOLUTION

TITLE: THE NURSING SHORTAGE IN MAINE

WHEREAS,

The National Center for Health Workforce Analysis reports that there currently exists in Maine a 12% shortage of full-time equivalent Registered Nurses and predicts that if nothing is done to address the shortage it will grow to 30.8% by 2020, and

WHEREAS,

Reports by the Organization of Maine Nurse Executives and the Maine Hospital Association confirm that a substantial shortage of registered nurses currently exists and predict that it will, if not addressed, dramatically worsen in the future, and

WHEREAS,

The reports indicated above as well as others have variously identified factors contributing significantly to the shortage as: Fewer nursing students graduating from nursing programs; fewer students enrolling in nursing programs; an aging registered nurse workforce; an increasingly dissatisfied workforce of employed Registered Nurses; a large and growing pool of unemployed registered nurses not seeking work as a such; an aging population; an increasing ability to access health care; and an expanding health care technology, and

WHEREAS,

The need for consumer protection against unsafe and ineffective care is increased during periods of Registered Nurse shortage, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMERICAN NURSES ASSOCIATION-MAINE:

1. Supports legislation designed to increase nursing program enrollments, nursing program enrollment capacities, and the pool of qualified nursing faculty applicants.
2. Supports legislation and private sector programs that promote environmental changes to support the aging Registered Nurse workforce and reward long-term Registered Nurse employees meaningfully and tangibly.
3. Supports legislation and regulations that hold health care facilities accountable for safe and adequate nurse staffing based on a plan that preserves the American Nurses Association's Principles for Nurse Staffing.
4. Supports legislation to support whistle blower's protection for nurses reporting hospital violations and unsafe staffing.

5. Supports legislation and regulation requiring health care facilities to disclose publicly nursing sensitive indicator data and staffing levels.
6. Supports the efforts of health care facilities to develop policies and procedures that promote nursing staff retention and devote increased time and resources to achieving it.
7. Supports legislative and private sector efforts to recruit back into the workforce unemployed Registered Nurses.
8. Supports the Maine State Board of Nursing as presently composed as the sole regulatory agency for Licensed Practical Nurses, Registered Nurses, and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses.
9. Opposes institutional licensure as well as all efforts to lower, waive, or diminish enforcement of nurse licensing standards.
10. Opposes delegation of Licensed Practical Nurse and Registered Nurse functions to unlicensed assistive personnel and creation of new categories of health care workers to assume nurse functions.

SPONSORED BY:

AUTHOR: C. Harriman (Bangor).

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