

TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF A CONTINUUM OF MEDICAL CARE FOR THE HOMELESS IN ORDER TO PREVENT PATIENT DUMPING.

SUBMITTED BY: The Chapter of California Nursing Students' Association at Saddleback College

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1 WHEREAS, a landmark study of New York City hospital patients found that
2 “homeless patients stayed 4.1 days or 36% longer per admission on
3 average than the other patients;” (Salit, Kuhn, Hartz, Vu, & Mosso,
4 1998, p.1734) and
5 WHEREAS, the average cost across nine major U.S. cities for one person staying one
6 day in a hospital is \$1638.00, versus one day in supportive housing
7 which costs \$30.88; (The Lewin Group, 2004, p. 1-5) and
8 WHEREAS respite care has reduced the average number of hospital inpatient days
9 (over a twelve-month period) for its residents to 3.4 days, versus 8.1 days
10 for those who did not receive respite care, and allowed for “timely
11 discharge from the hospital” (Buchanan, Doblin, Sai, & Garcia, 2006, p.
12 1279-1280; Podymow, Turnball, Tadic, & Muckle, 2006, p. 382) and
13 WHEREAS respite care programs have witnessed improvement in their residents’
14 health, access to healthcare, adherence to medications, income, and
15 housing status; (Podymow et al., 2006, p. 381-2; Zerger, 2006, p. 39-45)
16 therefore be it
17 RESOLVED that the California Nursing Students’ Association (CNSA) advocate for a
18 continuum of medical care for the homeless, namely respite care after
19 hospitalization coordinated between acute care hospitals and community
20 organizations serving the homeless; and be it further

21 RESOLVED that the CNSA support legislation that protects patients from dumping,
22 but also provides for an alternative discharge destination; and be it
23 further

24 RESOLVED that the CNSA raise awareness on the effectiveness and duplicability of a
25 respite program in California, as well as funding for supportive housing
26 efforts, by publishing an article in *Range of Motion*, through workshops
27 and speakers at convention, and any other methods deemed appropriate
28 by the CNSA Board of Directors, if feasible; and be it further

29 RESOLVED that the individual CNSA chapters inform the public by mailing this
30 resolution and a cover letter to California's general acute care hospitals,
31 the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Continuum
32 of Care Coordinators in California, the California Hospital Association,
33 the California Nurses' Association, and other organizations for the
34 homeless deemed appropriate, telling them of the benefits of respite care
35 for both hospitals and homeless individuals.