

## RESOLUTION

### TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR REGISTERED NURSING EDUCATION IN CALIFORNIA (Response to the Nursing Shortage)

**SUBMITTED BY: CSU Sacramento California Nursing Students' Association**

**AUTHORS: Mary McCafferty Brown and Cynthia Coats**

2 WHEREAS, in California, the majority of RN pre-licensure programs are impacted and  
continue to have long waiting lists and 24 percent of the RN workforce is currently educated  
4 outside of California while 21 percent of RNs are educated in other nations (California Board of  
Registered Nursing, September 3, 2002, p. 19; California Strategic Planning Committee for  
Nursing, September, 2002, p. 4); and

6  
8 WHEREAS, the number of applicants to the 99 private and public pre-licensure programs of  
registered nursing in California in 2001 was 10,362 and the number of funded slots was only  
6,719 (California Board of Registered Nursing, 2002, p. 1-2); and

10  
12 WHEREAS, California ranks 49<sup>th</sup> in the nation for working RNs (544/100,000 population  
versus the national average of 782/100,000) and 94 percent of licensed RNs in California are  
14 actively employed (California Board of Registered Nursing, Fall 2003, p. 10; United States  
General Accounting Office, July, 2001, p. 14-15); and

16  
18 WHEREAS, the average age of an RN in California exceeds the national average of 45.2 years  
with 30 percent of the workforce being over the age of 50 and less than 10 percent of nurses  
20 being under the age of 30 (Chancellor of the California Community Colleges, June, 2000, p. 21;  
Spratley, Johnson, Sochalski, Fritz, & Spencer, March, 2000, p. 15); and

22  
24 WHEREAS, California state law AB 394 mandated the State Department of Health Services to  
establish the minimum number of licensed nurse-to-patient ratios which has resulted in a greater  
need for RNs ("AB 394," 1999, p. 92; California Department of Health Services, August 25,  
2003, p. 3); and

26  
28 WHEREAS, sixty-seven percent of nursing students in California today are over the age of 25  
which, when coupled with the aging of the current RN workforce, results in a projected shortfall  
of 120,695 RNs by 2020 (California Board of Registered Nursing, 2002, p. 40; United States  
30 Health Resources and Services Administration, July, 2002, p. 18); and

32  
34 WHEREAS, acute care hospitals in California are experiencing a RN vacancy rate of 20  
percent compared to a nationwide average of 11 percent (American Hospitals Association, June  
27, 2001; United States General Accounting Office, July, 2001, p. 4); and

36  
38 WHEREAS, it takes a minimum of eight full-time academic semesters to complete any pre-  
licensure nursing program in California, many students take longer due to financial constraints  
(Coffman, Spetz, Seago, Rosenoff, & O'Neil, January, 2001, p. 51; Hollis & Timmer, May 12,  
2001, Appendix D); therefore be it

40  
RESOLVED, that CNSA will encourage and support legislation to increase funded slots in  
California's pre-licensure RN programs; and be it further

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RESOLVED, that CNSA encourage and support the establishment of new nursing programs on campuses throughout the state that currently do not have nursing programs; and be it further

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46

RESOLVED, that CNSA encourage and support legislation to fund recruitment efforts in middle schools and high schools; and be it further

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RESOLVED, that CNSA encourage and support legislation to increase all forms of financial assistance for nursing students; and be it further

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RESOLVED, that CNSA send a copy of this resolution to the American Nurses Association, the National League for Nursing, and other organizations deemed appropriate by the CNSA Board of Directors.

54

## Bibliography

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## Resolution Abstract

The majority of California programs of registered nursing are impacted and continue to have long wait lists, while California ranks next to last in nurses per 100,000 population. The nursing shortage in California is further complicated as hospitals are experiencing large vacancy rates and California State Law requires specific nurse to patient ratios that will serve to increase the demand for registered nurses in this state. This resolution supports increased funding for registered nursing programs in California to expand the number of slots available in current programs and to add additional nursing programs where none currently exist.

## Estimated Cost of Implementation

### Photocopies

4 pages x \$ 0.10 x 2            \$ 0.80

### Envelopes

\$ 0.10 x 2                            \$ 0.20

### Postage

\$ 0.37 x 2                            \$ 0.74

Total                                    \$ 1.74