

RESOLUTION

TOPIC: **INSUPPORT OF CREATING A LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS TAKING NURSING PREREQUISITE COURSE WORK WHO MEET SPECIFIC CRITERIA.**

SUBMITTED BY: **California Nursing Students' Association Board of Directors**

AUTHOR: **Tim Curley, Vice President, Hospital Council of Northern and Central California Association of California Nurse Leaders**

WHEREAS, it is widely acknowledged that there is a nationwide shortage of nurses and that the shortage will worsen in the future; and

WHEREAS, California is second only to Nevada for the least number of RNs per 100,000 population in the United States – 566, compared to national average of 798; and

WHEREAS, the state of California is already facing a critical shortage and is currently experiencing a staffing RN vacancy rate in hospitals of over 15% - meaning that more than one out of every 6 nursing jobs goes unfilled because hospitals cannot find the nurses to hire; and

WHEREAS, California currently has more than 264,000 RNs with active licenses and according to the California Employment Development Department, California will need an additional 109,600 RNs by 2010; and

WHEREAS, the average age of a nurse in California is 47 years old - 30% are over the age of 50 and within the next four years, (by 2006) more than 28,000 RNs in California are expected to retire; and

WHEREAS, it is important to recognize the need for more nurses and to begin making plans and adopting programs which will effectively address the shortage in California; and

WHEREAS, the Hospital Council of Northern and Central California (Hospital Council) as a grantee for The California Endowment's Central Valley Nursing Work Force Diversity Initiative, is charged with developing and implementing a public policy agenda that removes barriers to the enrollment, retention and graduation of all pre-nursing and all nursing students; and

RESOLUTION

TOPIC: **INSUPPORT OF CREATING A LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS TAKING NURSING PREREQUISITE COURSE WORK WHO MEET SPECIFIC CRITERIA.**

SUBMITTED BY: **California Nursing Students' Association Board of Directors**

AUTHOR: **Tim Curley, Vice President, Hospital Council of Northern and Central California Association of California Nurse Leaders**

WHEREAS, the Hospital Council and its subcontractors have conducted a thorough literature search into barriers/solutions and have met with college and university nursing program staff, faculty, students, and with minority community groups in the Central Valley, and the lack of financial aid available to students taking nursing prerequisite courses was consistently raised as a barrier; and

WHEREAS, many students cannot afford the prerequisite course work, which can take as much as two to three years to complete and many therefore forego a nursing education; and

WHEREAS, many individuals must work at least part time to meet their educational expenses and other financial commitments at home; and

WHEREAS, according to the results of a study conducted as a result of SB 664 (Poochigian) Chapter 443, Statutes of 2001, the main reason for attrition from nursing programs is that students must work to support themselves and/or family members while enrolled in nursing programs; and

WHEREAS, the high cost of education makes it very difficult for certain populations to afford to get a nursing degree; and

WHEREAS, the Hospital Council has requested that the Health Professions Education Foundation (HPEF) allocate a portion of the Registered Nurse Education Fund (RNEF) and the Associate Degree Nursing Scholarship Fund to create a loan repayment program for students taking nursing prerequisite course work who meet the following criteria: 1) acquire a loan to fund their prerequisite course work, 2) graduate with a registered nursing degree, 3) pass the National Council Licensure Examination and obtain license from the California Board of Registered Nursing, 4) work a minimum of one year in a geographic area as defined in AB 1241, and, 5) demonstrate financial need; and

RESOLUTION

TOPIC: **INSUPPORT OF CREATING A LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS TAKING NURSING PREREQUISITE COURSE WORK WHO MEET SPECIFIC CRITERIA.**

SUBMITTED BY: **California Nursing Students' Association Board of Directors**

AUTHOR: **Tim Curley, Vice President, Hospital Council of Northern and Central California Association of California Nurse Leaders**

WHEREAS, the increased financial assistance would help potential RNs to complete their degree and help address the California's nursing shortage; and

WHEREAS, the HPEF, under the direction of the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, administers scholarships and loan repayment grants to health professional students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds and demographically underrepresented groups who are committed to practicing in underserved areas; and

WHEREAS, the HPEF scholarships and loan repayment grants are funded through the RNEF which is funded through a \$10 surcharge fee from the biennial renewal of the RN license in California.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVEDthat the California Nursing Student Association, support the HPEF creating a loan repayment program for students taking nursing prerequisite course work who meet specified criteria.

RESOLVED, A board member from CNSA will be elected to work with ACNL on this project to help create loan repayment program for students taking nursing pre-requisite course work who meet specified criteria.