

TOPIC: INCREASE STUDENT NURSE AWARENESS OF NURSE UNIONS AND THEIR ROLE IN HEALTH POLICY ADVOCACY

SUBMITTED BY: California Nursing Students' Association
Sacramento, CA

AUTHORS: Michael Taningco, Julia Andres, Ashley Jackson, Andrea Lapuz

WHEREAS, The National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) House of Delegates 2018 adopted the resolution, "In Support of Coordinated Health Policy Advocacy Opportunities for Nursing Students"

WHEREAS, Connecting students in their nursing education to policy development and civic leadership will invite a continued interest in ongoing political participation throughout their nursing careers (Woodward, 2016, p.58); and

WHEREAS, Offering various ways to actively direct the students' awareness through self-reflective and engaging political activities, and discussion is essential in promoting political participation in nurses (Woodward, 2016, p.57); and

WHEREAS, Political participation is a way for nurses to become active in creating, influencing, and advocating for healthcare policy that will impact the health of patients, families, and communities. (Jarigue, 2019, p.10); and

WHEREAS, Nurses are qualified to be active participants in the legislative process and advocating for health policy because of their diverse skill sets, knowledge, experiences, and how they are strong advocates for patients' rights and/or patient populations (Woodward, 2016, p.60); and

WHEREAS, Nurses are the largest group of health professionals in the country, and if policy makers and other key decision makers know that nurses are in agreement on important issues, they listen and often take action (Institute of Medicine, 2011, p.240); and

WHEREAS, Labor unions in general have long been important in being political actors, mobilizing voters, and shaping the attitudes of their members, all while influencing member representation and economic inequality (Macdonald, 2019, p.1); and

WHEREAS, Nursing unions are on the rise in the United States, and this growth has many implications for the future involvement and growth in areas where nurses have not been as present in the past (Higgins, 2016, p.5); and

WHEREAS, Registered nurses and nursing unions alike understand the potential of the nursing profession to significantly impact the decisions involving the delivery of patient care, and are seeking more effective ways to be involved (Clark, 2016, p. 118); and therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the NSNA invite health policy experts, nurse lobbyists, and nursing union representatives to speak at events such as membership meetings, webinars, and state conventions; and be it further;

RESOLVED, That the NSNA further promote health policy events that pertain to nursing union advocacy; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the NSNA Health Policy & Advocacy Chair and Committee hold a more active role, aside from their existing duties, in nursing union education, and awareness for nursing students; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the NSNA send a copy of this resolution to American Nurses Association, National Nurses United, American Association of Colleges of Nursing, American Organization of Nursing Leadership, National League for Nursing, American Academy of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau, and all others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors