



GENERAL ASSEMBLY – October 24, 2004

Resolutions for 2005

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 1

Submitted by AaNA Labor Council

Adopted

Not Adopted

Patient Protection and Nurse Retention

WHEREAS, patient care and patient safety is the focus of all persons and agencies involved in the delivery of health care to Alaskans, and

WHEREAS, the health and safety of the Registered Nurse cannot be separated from the health and safety of the patient, and

WHEREAS, a substantial number of Registered Nurses in the State of Alaska are leaving direct patient care nursing due exhaustion, personal injuries, lack of long term security in the form of retirement benefits, and concern for the quality of patient care they are able to deliver under adverse working conditions,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alaska Nurses Association General Assembly go on record as supporting legislation which would:

- promote safe staffing,
- prohibit non-emergency mandatory overtime,
- assure workday breaks,
- establish safe patient handling policies in health care facilities,
- protect overtime pay for RNs,
- include retired Registered Nurses in a state employee retirement program, and
- guarantee that Registered Nurses NOT be forced to work outside of their Scope of Practice, and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alaska Nurses Association Legislative Committee, in collaboration with the Health and Safety Committee, Professional Practice Committee and Labor Council, investigate the development and introduction of legislation.



GENERAL ASSEMBLY – October 24, 2004

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 2

Submitted by Pat Senner

Adopted

Not Adopted

Resolution Concerning Use of Narcotic Pain Medications

Whereas, Alaskan nurses have been on the forefront of efforts to ensure that patients receive adequate control of the pain they experience and;

Whereas, Alaska ranks in the top ten states in per capita prescription of controlled pain medications such as oxycontin and methadone and;

Whereas, there is concern about abuse and diversion of prescription pain medications which is resulting in legislation being proposed on the state and federal level;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Alaska Nurses Association, through the Professional Practice and Legislative Committees, will work with the other nursing groups and other health care groups in Alaska to investigate the possibility of holding a summit on this topic and that the professional practice committee and legislative committee monitor and lobby on any proposed legislation.

Therefore, be it also resolved that AaNA will retain its commitment to the patient's right and ability to have adequate pain control.



GENERAL ASSEMBLY – October 24, 2004

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 3

Submitted by Pat Senner

Adopted

Not Adopted

**Resolution on Principles to Guide Evaluation of
Proposed Changes in Scopes of Practice of Health Care Providers**

Whereas, the techniques for evaluating and treating illnesses and injuries are constantly evolving and;

Whereas, existing health care provider groups and individuals are constantly seeking to change their scope of practice by regulation and legislations and;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Alaska Nurses Association will use the following five principles when evaluating proposed changes in scope of practice;

1. The individual or group seeking to change their scope of practice have formal training by accredited individuals or institutions, including hands on experience, in the areas they are proposing to expand their practice into;
2. The individual or group have an exam, developed by a recognized examining entity, which covers the area of practice covered in the proposed expansion;
3. That the health care providers are regulated by an Alaska regulatory board which includes members of the public and;
4. That the individual or group seeking expansion have a requirement for continued education/competency in their area they are expanding into and;
5. That the proposed expansion of practice is not being driven by efforts to reduce the scope of practice of nurses or negatively impact their income.



GENERAL ASSEMBLY – October 24, 2004

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 4

Submitted by Pat Senner

Adopted

Not Adopted

Resolution Concerning Nurses Working Overtime

Whereas, because of the nursing shortage nurses are under pressure to work overtime and;

Whereas, studies show that working various types of overtime (hours per day, days per week, number of shifts in a row) increases the likelihood that a nurse will make an error in providing patient care and;

Whereas, studies also show that working long hours contributes to back and other injuries;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Alaska Nurses Association will educate nurses about the hazards of working extended hours, will work to maintain overtime pay as a way to discourage employers from requiring workers to work extended hours, and will use a variety of methods to prohibit mandatory overtime.



GENERAL ASSEMBLY – October 24, 2004

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 5

Submitted by Pat Senner

Adopted

Not Adopted

Resolution Concerning the Prevention Of Exposure to Blood borne Pathogens From Sharps

Whereas, accidental injuries from contaminated sharps have been reduced by 80% since implementation of State and Federal Needlestick legislation and;

Whereas, the risk of contracting a blood borne disease by health care workers is increasing due to the increase number of individual infected with these disease;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Alaska Nurses Association, through its Labor Council, its Workplace Safety Committee, and its Legislative Committee, will work to ensure that strong Alaska laws regulating medical sharps will remain in place, that nurses are educated about evolving technology to prevent sharps injuries, and that nurses will continue to work with employers to find ways to reduce the likelihood of health care workers experiencing a sharps injury.



GENERAL ASSEMBLY – October 24, 2004

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 6

Submitted by Pat Senner

Adopted

Not Adopted

Resolution Concerning Maintenance of Proper Funding For Health Care Services

Whereas, State and Federal funding for health care services is vital for the provision of quality health care in Alaska and;

Whereas, funding for health care constitutes a large percentage of State and Federal budgets and;

Whereas, both State and Federal governments are experiencing budget shortfalls;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Alaska Nurses Association will continue to advocate for sufficient funds for health care for all Alaskans and that nurses are involved in the development of strategies for making sure that funds available are being utilized and in an efficient and proper manner.



GENERAL ASSEMBLY – October 24, 2004

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 7

Submitted by Pat Senner

Adopted

Not Adopted

**Resolution Regarding Safe Patient Handling
And Reduction of Injuries to Nurses**

Whereas, nursing had been one of the top professions for on-the-job injuries for the past three decades and;

Whereas, the average nurse lifts, moves and turns 1.2 tons a day and;

Whereas, improper handling of patients can lead to the patient experiencing skin breakdown, pain, and injury, and;

Whereas, nurses are caring for patients who are increasingly heavy, and;

Whereas, the nursing workforce is aging and it is imperative that we take measures to prolong a nurse's career as long as possible;

Whereas, the health and safety of the nurse cannot be separated from the health and safety of the patient;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Alaska Nurses Association will encourage research on safe patient handling, will educate nurses about the technology available to handle patients safely, and will look at ways, including legislation, for encouraging utilization of this technology in the work setting.



GENERAL ASSEMBLY – October 24, 2004

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 8

Submitted by Pat Senner

Adopted

Not Adopted

Resolution Concerning Funding for Birthing Centers

Whereas, birthing centers operated by certified nurse midwives offer a safe alternative to hospital deliveries and;

Whereas, the cost of delivering a baby in a birthing center is less than in a hospital and;

Whereas, certified nurse midwives currently cannot receive Medicaid reimbursement for births that occur in birthing centers;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Alaska Nurses Association, through the Legislative Committee, will support certified nurse midwives efforts to obtain licensure and Medicaid reimbursement for births occurring in centers they operate.



GENERAL ASSEMBLY – October 24, 2004

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 9

Submitted by Carole Edwards

Adopted

Not Adopted

Resolution Concerning the Education of the Public About the Five Wishes Bill and End of Life Decisions

Whereas the Alaska population is aging and an increasing number of individuals and families will be faced with making end of life decisions and;

Whereas nurses are frequently the healthcare providers most directly involved in assisting individuals and families in making these decisions and;

Whereas Alaska has passed a model law to help individuals make their decisions be known about their care towards end of their life;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Alaska Nurses Association will work with other interested parties in supporting a public education campaign based on five wishes legislations.