

Alaska Nurses Association
2010 Resolution #1
Priorities for the 2010 Alaska Legislative Session
10/17/2010

Be it resolved that for the coming year the following will be the priorities for the Alaska Nurses Association's legislative efforts:

Monitoring for any proposed amendments to AS 18.20.400;

Support incentives and loan forgiveness for students in health occupations including nurses and advanced nursing education;

To ensure safer workplaces and to encourage safe patient handling;

Ensure the Alaska Nurse Practice Act is not amended in such a way as to harm the nursing practice;

Monitor activity pertaining to Title Protection that would prohibit the right of nurses with doctorate degrees to use the title doctor;

Support efforts to change AS 47.05.300-47.05.390 on the model of New Mexico legislation Section 29-17-5—Criminal History Screening, in order to make this statute more just and less onerous for Alaska health care workers;

Work to improve Alaska's disaster preparedness and;

Ensure efforts to expand the number of Alaskans who can obtain reasonably priced health insurance through support of funding for the expansion of Denali KidCare program and supporting new and innovative programs that would make health insurance affordable for most, if not all Alaskans.

Adopted

Rejected

Alaska Nurses Association
2010 Resolution #2
AaNA Support to Eliminate Mandatory Overtime
10/17/2010

Whereas, the shortages of available and experienced nurses has increased the use of mandatory overtime in US health care facilities to solve staffing problems; and

Whereas, this practice is pushing nurses beyond their capacity to work safely and to provide appropriate, quality care for their patients, is eroding job satisfaction, and is negatively impacting the ability to recruit and retain nurses; and

Whereas, studies have found the likelihood of making an error is 3 times higher when nurses work shifts lasting 12.5 hours and longer; and

Whereas, other studies have found that working more than 12 hours a day increases the injury hazard rate by 37% and working more than 60 hours a week increases the injury rate hazard by 23%; and

Whereas, nurses are capable of determining their capacity to work beyond their predetermined, regular work schedules and expected to exercise their critical judgment in determining their ability to provide safe patient care.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Nurses Association will continue to support AS 18.20.400 which bans nurses from working more than 14 consecutive hours unless provided for in the Statute

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alaska Nurses Association continue to educate nurses about the hazards of working overtime, in terms of patient safety, nurse safety from injuries, **and legal jeopardy to the nurse**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alaska Nurses Association will diligently work to make sure each nurse knows and understands the reporting mechanism for AS 18.20.400

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alaska Nurses Association work collaboratively with employers to identify ways to staff their facilities without the use of mandatory call and extended work hours beyond 14 hours.

 X Adopted

_____ Rejected

Alaska Nurses Association (AaNA)
2010 Resolution #3
Health Care Worker No Lifting Resolution
10/17/2010

Whereas, health care occupations are among the very highest risk for back injuries according to the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics (FBLs); and

Whereas, back injuries contribute to a worldwide nurse shortage, and it is estimated that by the year 2020 there will be a shortage of 400,000 nurses in the United States alone according to the University of Washington Health Sciences Center (UWHSC); and

Whereas, back injuries result in loss of time from work, chronic discomfort and leaving the healthcare workforce; and

Whereas, concerns about the potential for back injury may also dissuade people from entering the healthcare industry;

Whereas in order to recruit into healthcare and retain an adequate healthcare workforce, addressing the potential of back injury is a necessity; and

Whereas technological advances have provided for mechanical lifting devices that are easy to use and safe for patients;

Whereas, studies have shown that in order to reduce nurse and healthcare workers' back injuries and reduce patient injuries, "no lift" policies and use of mechanical lifts and engineering safety controls should be implemented at hospitals and healthcare facilities; and

Whereas the Coalition for Healthcare Worker and Patient Safety (CHAPS) is a national organization comprised of many groups concerned for Healthcare worker safety, *therefore be it*

Resolved that the 2010 AaNA General Assembly supports a culture of no manual lifting, and *be it further*

Resolved that the AaNA BOD will appoint a member liaison to work with the National group CHAPS and *be it further*

Resolved that the AaNA CHAPS liaison design and promulgate a statewide education campaign to establish no lifting policies in all hospitals and healthcare settings and throughout the great state of Alaska; and *be it further*

Resolved that the AaNA work to pass appropriate legislation at both the State and Federal levels.

approved

rejected

Alaska Nurses Association (AaNA)
2010 Resolution #4
Resolution on Influenza Vaccinations for
Registered Nurses and other Healthcare Providers
10/17/2010

Whereas, seasonal influenza is a serious illness with high rates of mortality and morbidity; and

Whereas, seasonal influenza is preventable by vaccination; and

Whereas, seasonal influenza vaccination rates of healthcare providers is unacceptably low at less than 50% annually; and

Whereas, efforts to increase vaccination rates through education have failed to significantly increase vaccination rates of registered nurses and other healthcare providers; and

Whereas, registered nurses and other healthcare providers can transmit influenza to their vulnerable patients, their co-workers and their families; and

Whereas, registered nurses can acquire influenza from their patients and co-workers, becoming ill and needing time off to recover, thus stressing healthcare staffing amidst the nursing shortage,

Therefore, be It resolved, that the Alaska Nurses Association (AaNA) supports implementation of influenza vaccination programs for registered nurses and other healthcare providers that aim for 100% vaccination rates, but that also provide an “opt out” provision,

Further, be it resolved, that the AaNA encourages health care organizations to provide influenza vaccinations to registered nurses and other healthcare providers with direct patient contact at no charge and at convenient locations.

approved rejected

Alaska Nurses Association (AaNA)
2010 Resolution #5
Resolution on Statewide Nurses Conference
10/17/2010

Whereas, the Alaska Statewide Nurses Conference has been successful in providing continuing education for nurses across the state for many years; and

Whereas, attendance at the yearly conference continues to increase among attendees, vendors and sponsors; and,

Whereas, providing a yearly conference that is affordable for all nurses has become difficult to plan due to limited availability of hotels and other conference sites; and

Whereas, negotiating both dates and costs has become increasingly difficult due to the short planning period of one year;

Therefore be it resolved, that the annual Alaska Statewide Nurses Conference become a three day event every other year in the year of nursing relicensure. This will allow the Continuing Education committee to negotiate with hotels and other places with conference rooms large enough to accommodate the number of nurses that have been attending this conference. During the off-year of the event, a smaller contact hour retreat, sponsored by the Alaska Nurses Association, will be provided at local areas.

approved rejected

Alaska Nurses Association (AaNA)
2010 Resolution #6
Resolution on Association Co-sponsorship of CE Events
10/17/2010

Whereas, the Alaska Nurses Association wants to be the “go to” organization for nurses in the State of Alaska, and

Whereas, the Association is going to become a Provider unit of contact hours within the next six months,

Therefore be it resolved, that the Alaska Nurses Association become a co-sponsor of conferences and educational events offered to nurses by organizations that do not have a lead nurse planner and cannot otherwise provide contact hours to nurses for their event. There would be an agreement with such organizations that the Association would be able to provide membership applications to the nurses that attend such co-sponsored events. There may also be a charge for providing co-sponsorship of such events.

approved rejected

Alaska Nurses Association (AaNA)
2010 Resolution #7
Resolution on Polybrominated Diphenylethers (PBDEs)
10/17/2010

Whereas, PBDEs are toxic, endocrine-disrupting flame retardant chemicals added to plastics, foam products and textiles; and

Whereas, prenatal exposures to PBDEs at levels commonly found in households have been shown in studies to be associated with adverse neurodevelopmental effects in young children; and

Whereas, people living in North America have levels of PDBEs that are 10-40 times higher than individuals living in Europe or Japan and people living in northern regions are particularly vulnerable to PBDE exposure; and

Whereas, safer and economically viable alternatives are available and are already being used by some manufacturers of computers and other products; and

Whereas, the American Public Health Association and International Association of Fire Fighters have urged the phase-out of PDBEs and other harmful chemicals when safe alternatives are readily available;

Therefore be it resolved, that the Alaska Nurses Association supports the passage of SB295.

approved rejected

Alaska Nurses Association (AaNA)
2010 Resolution #8
Resolution on Disaster Ethics
10/17/2010

Whereas, Alaska has great potential to experience disasters such as earthquake, volcanic eruption, flooding, wildfires, tsunami and major disease outbreak; and

Whereas, Alaska's vast geography, isolation and vulnerability have an impact on interstate and intrastate movement of assistive personnel and resources with reliance and dependence on air delivery; and

Whereas, large-scale disasters can quickly overwhelm even the most sophisticated of health care systems; and

Whereas, other states have dealt with ethical issues of licensed health care workers and resource allocation during a disaster; and

Whereas, licensed health care professionals in Alaska have only a "Good Samaritan" law for protection out of the normal work day; and

Whereas, health care professionals (HCPs) and regulatory bodies must confront the need to alter ways in which health care is administered; more specifically, maximizing the number of lives saved may require prioritizing scarce equipment, supplies, and personnel, providing care in nonconventional settings and potentially changing thresholds for critical care; and

Whereas, in a disaster individual health care professionals (HCPs) may be forced to make independent decisions to prioritize scarce resources; and

Whereas, the weight of such decisions has the potential to cause great stress and significant liability concerns for HCP's as evidenced by the legal actions taken after the 2005 Gulf Coast hurricanes; these decisions can introduce significant legal and professional implications if not addressed in advance.

Therefore be it resolved that, the AaNA shall support legislation directed at remedying this problem, and shall support individuals and organizations that bring this issue to legislation; and,

Therefore be it resolved that, the AaNA shall distribute this resolution to all members to better educate and prepare them to encourage discussion and future legislation to protect health care workers assisting in the time of disaster and,

Therefore be it resolved that, the AaNA calls upon all members to take this resolution to their worksites to distribute and discuss these issues,

Therefore be it resolved that, this resolution, upon passage, be released to state and regional broadcast, print media and Internet sources.

_____X_____ Accepted

_____ Rejected