

TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF A CONTINUUM OF MEDICAL CARE FOR THE HOMELESS IN ORDER TO PREVENT PATIENT DUMPING

SUBMITTED BY: Saddleback College Student Nurses' Association, Mission Viejo, CA

WHEREAS, “Health facilities have engaged in a practice known as ‘homeless dumping’ where...the homeless are transported to cities or vicinities that have support services with the rationale that the services might be available. Unfortunately, many times the person is dropped off in front of a treatment center that may not have space available, leaving the person to fend for him or herself on the street”; and

WHEREAS, “respite care has emerged to describe recuperative or convalescent services needed by homeless people with medical problems”; and

WHEREAS, the average cost across nine major U.S. cities for one person staying one day in a hospital is \$1638.00, versus one day in supportive housing, which costs \$30.88; and respite care has reduced the average number of hospital inpatient days (over a twelve-month period) for its residents to 3.4 days, versus 8.1 days for those who did not receive respite care, which allows for more “timely discharge from the hospital”; and respite care programs have witnessed improvement in their residents’ health, access to healthcare, adherence to medications, income, and housing status; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses’ Association (NSNA) encourage its constituents to advocate for a continuum of medical care for the homeless, namely respite care after hospitalization coordinated between acute care hospitals and community organizations serving the homeless; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage its constituents to support legislation that protects patients from dumping, but also provides for an alternative discharge destination; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage its constituents to raise awareness about the effectiveness of a respite program in the United States, as well as funding or supportive housing efforts, by publishing an article in *Imprint*, through focus sessions at MidYear and Annual Convention, and any other methods deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors, if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA send a copy of this resolution to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the American Nurses Association, the American Medical Association, the American Hospital Association, the National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems, the National Coalition for the Homeless, the National Health Care for the Homeless Council, the National League for Nursing, the National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, and all others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.