

Resolution 2023-1

Support Increasing Nurses Awareness of the Unhoused Population and Health Risks Associated with being Unhoused

WHEREAS, Alaska Nurses Association is committed to the promotion of health and safety issues of the public; and

WHEREAS, Persons experiencing being unhoused (PEH) are at elevated risk for many adverse medical conditions and premature death. Health problems among unhoused persons result from various factors, including barriers to care, lack of access to adequate food and protection, and limited resources and social services; and

WHEREAS, Recent estimates indicate that approximately 17,000 people across Alaska being unhoused, ranging in age from infants to age 65+.; and

WHEREAS, The impact of being unhoused on children, especially young children, is devastating and may lead to changes in brain architecture that can interfere with learning, cognitive skills, and social relationships; and

WHEREAS, People being unhoused are likely to have multiple chronic medical or mental health conditions.; and

WHEREAS, Unhoused people experience a wide range of illnesses and injuries to an extent that is much greater than that experienced by the population as a whole.

The Alaska Nurses Association, THEREFORE, RESOLVES, to increase awareness and advocacy of the unhoused population in Alaska and the health risks associated with being unhoused, as appropriate, through publication of articles in The Alaska Nurse, and information disseminated during continuing education events. Such efforts demonstrate registered nurse advocacy for the health of all the people of the great state of Alaska.

Resolution 2023-2

Attending the Alaska State Board of Nursing Meetings

WHEREAS, the Alaska Board of Nursing is responsible for protecting the health and safety of the Alaskan public by regulating the practice of nursing in Alaska;

BE IT RESOLVED, that a professional practice committee representative will continue to attend the Alaska State Board of Nursing quarterly Board meetings and will report back to the AaNA Board of Directors the activity of the state board that impacts the Alaska nursing profession.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the AaNA will continue to provide support to our AaNA members who have questions about nursing practice issues.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the AaNA is available to work with the Alaska Board of Nursing.

Resolution 2023-3

Commit to Supporting Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs), Registered Nurses and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses in Increasing Awareness of Naloxone in the Reversal of Overdose from Opioids and the Availability of Naloxone in Alaska

WHEREAS, Naloxone is a life-saving medication that can reverse an overdose from opioids—including heroin, fentanyl, and prescription opioid medications—when given in a timely manner, and won't harm someone if they are overdosing on drugs other than opioids; and

WHEREAS, Provisional data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Center for Health Statistics show overdose deaths involving opioids, including fentanyl, increased from an estimated 70,029 in 2020 to 80,816 in 2021; and

WHEREAS, Expanding the awareness and availability of naloxone is a key part of the public health response to the opioid epidemic; and

WHEREAS, LPNs, Registered Nurses and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses are committed to the promotion of health and safety issues for the public.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Nurses Association commits to support LPNs, registered nurses and advanced practice registered nurses in increasing awareness to patients and the public of naloxone in the reversal of overdose from opioids and the availability of naloxone to individuals in Alaska.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Nurses Association commits to increase the awareness of naloxone in the reversal of overdose from opioids and the availability of naloxone to individuals in Alaska, as appropriate, through articles published in *The Alaska Nurse*, information dissemination via electronic media, webinars, and continuing education events. Such efforts demonstrate nurse advocacy for the health of all the people of the great State of Alaska and beyond.

1 Opioid Overdose Prevention Toolkit. (2018). Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services. <https://store.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/d7/priv/sma18-4742.pdf>.

2 U.S. Overdose Deaths In 2021 Increased Half as Much as in 2020 - But Are Still Up 15% (cdc.gov).

3 <https://www.hhs.gov/surgeongeneral/reports-and-publications/addiction-and-substance-misuse/advisory-on-naloxone/index.html>

Resolution 2023-4

Affirming Opposition to Nurse Licensure Compact Legislation in Alaska

WHEREAS, AaNA is the recognized leader and voice of nurses in Alaska and works with the Alaska Board of Nursing and Alaska Legislature on issues that affect nurse licensure and practice in our state; and

WHEREAS, the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN), a private, non-regulatory, non-governmental trade association, has created a Nurse Licensure Compact for multistate nursing practice; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska is not a member of the Nurse Licensure Compact, and Alaska currently enjoys complete autonomy over the regulation of the profession of nursing, allowing local experts to make local decisions that are best for our state; and

WHEREAS, joining the Nurse Licensure Compact would erode Alaska's state sovereignty and pose significant new complications for regulating nursing practice in our state; and

WHEREAS, the Nurse Licensure Compact undermines the mission of the Alaska Board of Nursing by hindering the Board's ability to protect the health and safety of the Alaskan public; and

WHEREAS, the Nurse Licensure Compact allows nurses to circumvent Alaska's rigorous and necessary standards regarding nursing education, continued competency, and safe conduct and practice; this ultimately lowers nursing standards and diminishes the quality of patient care that Alaskans receive; and

WHEREAS, any member state discovering that the Nurse Licensure Compact overrules the state at excessive cost, will find it difficult, expensive, and perhaps impossible to extricate itself from the Compact; and

WHEREAS, there are other regulatory solutions to providing for telehealth and allowing expedited licensing processes, and these solutions do not require the State to cede its authority to an unaccountable and amorphous bureaucracy, nor do these solutions undermine standards for nursing nor jeopardize the health and safety of Alaskan patients; and

WHEREAS, the Nurse Licensure Compact presents barriers to all nurses, including obstacles to advancing practice authority and advocacy through collective bargaining, and by potentially suppressing wages, undermining worker and safety protections, and deteriorating working conditions through generalized –instead of community– standards:

BE IT RESOLVED, the Alaska Nurses Association affirms our position that licensure for nurses working in Alaska should be under the jurisdiction of the Alaska Board of Nursing; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, AaNA affirms our unequivocal opposition to Nurse Licensure Compact legislation in the state of Alaska; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, AaNA will intensify our efforts to educate Alaskan nurses, legislators, and the public on the dangers of joining the Nurse Licensure Compact and will mobilize our members in opposition to Nurse Licensure Compact legislation in Alaska.

Resolution 2023-5
Participating in AFT's Code Red Campaign

WHEREAS, AaNA is the recognized leader and voice of nurses in Alaska and works to create a safe experience for nurses and their patients in all health care settings.

WHEREAS, there is a staffing crisis due to nurses not wanting to work in unsafe workplaces.

WHEREAS, nurses deserve to come to work and not feel they are not putting their license or patients in jeopardy when they accept an assignment.

WHEREAS, patients deserve to know their nurses have enough time to safely care for them.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Alaska Nurses Association actively participate and support the AFT's Campaign Code Red: Understaffing = Patient Care Crisis.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the AaNA will work to educate Alaska's student nurses about the AFT Code Red campaign

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the AaNA will advocate for safe staffing legislation

Resolution 2023-6
Establishing a Union Nurse Retiree Program

WHEREAS, we are proud members of the Alaska Nurses Association (AaNA), and we understand that collective action gives us the power to ensure justice, fairness and opportunity for all; and

WHEREAS, our Association was founded 70 years ago to establish a voice for nurses as workers so they could have a collective voice addressing the conditions of their workplace, advocate for fair pay and stand up for greater autonomy as professionals to advocate for their patients; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Nurses Association affiliated with the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) in 2015 to enhance our position and collective bargaining capabilities by standing together with other nurses, healthcare professionals and nursing educators across our nation; and

WHEREAS, many of our retiring or retired nurses may wish to maintain affiliation with the AaNA labor program and the AFT; and

WHEREAS, the AFT Constitution allows for involvement of retirees to continue engagement after retiring from their unionized workplace; and

WHEREAS, nurses continue to be the most trusted profession and communities rely on nurses to advocate for their wellbeing in this complex ever changing healthcare environment; and

WHEREAS, professional nurse retirees who have been involved in advocacy for many years may want to continue to engage with our community partners and legislators, further, provide mentoring and lead succession planning for the next generation of leaders in nursing, therefore AaNA must engage these nurses to stay involved with our Union at local, state and national levels.

BE IT RESOLVED, that AaNA Labor Program will reach out to union nurse retirees to engage their participation with AaNA by establishing a group of union retirees who are willing to participate in all activities afforded them, further benefiting our association, communities, and AaNA members' workplaces.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that through this journey of engaging with our retirees AaNA will continue to honor the many years of service to our patients, of nurse advocacy, promoting education, and mentoring that retirees have provided to our nursing communities.

RESOURCES

<https://www.aft.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/2022/aftconstitution2022.pdf>

<https://news.gallup.com/poll/467804/nurses-retain-top-ethics-rating-below-2020-high.aspx>