Resolution #8 – Human Trafficking - Byrne

TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF INCREASING AWARENESS OF THE ROLE OF THE NURSE IN COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

SUBMITTED BY: California State University, Sacramento

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WHEREAS, in 2010, the National Students’ Nursing Association House of Delegates passed a resolution to increase awareness of human trafficking seeking to reaffirm the need for education of health care providers’ ability to serve this vulnerable population, and address the gaps that exist in meeting this goal; and (NSNA, 2010)

WHEREAS, the American Nurses Association declared a position statement in 2010 identifying the nurse’s role in “advocating for human rights” as it pertains to human rights violations and the upholding of human rights and methods for reporting violations and taking action to prevent it from happening again; and (ANA, 2010)

WHEREAS, according to the United Nations, human trafficking is defined as including, but not limited to: movement of persons by threat or use of force, of abduction, or other methods to gain control over another person for the purpose of exploitation that includes sexual exploitation, forced labor/services, slavery, and/or removal of organs (UN, 2000, p.2) affecting over 20.9 million individuals in a $150 billion industry worldwide (Polaris Project, 2015); and

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a public health concern as victims are subject to sexually transmitted diseases, vaginal and or rectal trauma, unintended pregnancies, infertility, urinary tract infections, malnutrition, dehydration, exhaustion, dental problems, visual problems, depression, anxiety, suicidal ideation, PTSD, addiction, and tuberculosis as some of the potential health concerns (Sabella, 2011, pp. 27-28); and

WHEREAS, research has estimated that over 5,000 victims of human trafficking receive medical care every year in the United States while in the control of their trafficker, and that health care providers often unknowingly encounter these victims in providing all forms of health care services (Baldwin, 2011, pp. 36-39), and

WHEREAS, research has identified increasing education among health care providers about human trafficking can improve self-rated level of knowledge by over 50%, increase utilization of available reporting resources from 26% to 99%, and doubled suspected trafficking victim identification (Grace, 2014, pp. 856-861); therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the California Nursing Students Association support increased awareness of the nurse's role in combating human trafficking by encouraging constituents to advocate for improved nursing education in community, clinical, and academic environments regarding the use of
screening tools, victim hotlines, risk factor identification, and other appropriate resources; and be it further

RESOLVED, that CNSA increase awareness and advocacy about human trafficking, when feasible, through articles in the Range of Motion newsletter, website information dissemination, appropriate CNSA committee action, and information at the annual CNSA convention; and be it further

RESOLVED, that CNSA send a copy of this resolution to the American Nurses Association, California, the California Board of Registered Nursing, Association of California Nurse Leaders, California Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems, the California Organization of Associate/Baccalaureate Degree Nursing, the California Institute for Nursing and Health Care, California Emergency Nurses Association, the American Psychiatric Nurses Association California and any others deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors.