WASHINGTON STATE NURSES ASSOCIATION
2015 RESOLUTION #1

Support for Public Health Funding and Services

Whereas, Many Washingtonians suffer from preventable illness and premature death that public health can help prevent. We know what needs to be done, but we often do not have the capacity to do it.

Whereas, In Washington State, public health funding and service levels vary significantly depending on where you live.

Whereas, Public health funding has eroded, threatening basic services and our general public health.

Whereas, A baby born to an African American mother is twice as likely to die before reaching his or her first birthday than a baby born to a Caucasian mother.¹

Whereas, Recent research has shown the value of early intervention and prevention with families who have young children. Evidence based programs such as Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) and Maternity Support Services (MSS) provide critical help to families and children during critical developmental times. Children who are exposed to stressful environments such as homelessness, food insecurity, violence and poverty are at high risk for long term health and mental health problems. Nurses have served a key role in these programs and provide the expertise for the development of future programs based on the newest research.

Whereas, WSNA has historically supported funding efforts for these and other early intervention and prevention programs that utilize the expertise of nurses and nurse practitioners. One recent example of this type of program is the Best Starts for Kids initiative in King County. This initiative will fund programs such as Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) and Maternity Support Services (MSS) as well as programs that bring nurses into child care centers assuring safe and effective early learning opportunities.

Be It Therefore Resolved,

That WSNA support funding efforts for early intervention and prevention programs in public health that utilize the expertise of nurses and nurse practitioners, and

Resolved That WSNA support local and state efforts to ensure a fair distribution of health where everyone has the right to pursue and achieve his or her full health potential, and

Resolved That WSNA support local, state and national efforts to secure an adequate long-term stable source of funding for public health to ensure a robust public health infrastructure including public health nurses and nursing services in all communities.

Adopted by WSNA General Assembly April 23, 2015

¹ “The Growing Color Divide in U.S. Infant Mortality” from Population Reference Bureau