

**Washington State Nurses Association  
2015 RESOLUTION #3**

**OPPOSING “RIGHT TO WORK” LAWS**

WHEREAS, Efforts to amend the National Labor Relations Act and other federal and state collective bargaining laws to eliminate union security clauses in collective bargaining agreements undermines union membership and labor organizing nationwide; and

WHEREAS, “Right to work laws” inhibit the rights of workers by limiting the ability of registered nurses, teachers, police officers and other workers in both private and public sectors to successfully advocate for fair working wages and benefits that protect them and the people they serve; and

WHEREAS, “Right to work” laws hamper union organizing and eliminate workplace protections for hard working Americans, setting back the labor movement that promoted civil rights, women’s rights and economic justice; and

WHEREAS, The Economic Policy Institute published a study on the income gap between “right to work” states and states that honor union security agreements demonstrating that hourly wages are 16 percent lower in “right to work” states; and

WHEREAS, Health insurance, pensions, and safety standards are lower for workers where “right to work” laws exist, and health and safety standards are so weakened by “right to work” laws that workplace deaths have increased by fifty-one percent in states that enacted them; and

WHEREAS, Quality care and justice for patients in profit driven health care systems are jeopardized when registered nurses are silenced through “right to work” laws; and

WHEREAS, “Right to work” laws are not about having rights, but denying them, offering workers nothing more than the right to work without a contract, without guarantees of employment and fair working conditions,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED,

That WSNA strongly oppose “Right To Work” actions in Washington State and support other national efforts, believing that all workers have a right to fair wages and safe working conditions including a practice environment for all nurses that supports high quality patient care and the ability to exercise their rights to collective bargaining.

**Adopted by The WSNA General Assembly April 23, 2015**