2017 WSNA RESOLUTION #1
Supporting ANA’s Principles for Health System Transformation

WHEREAS, WSNA has strongly and frequently reaffirmed its support for universal access to quality, affordable health care for all Washingtonians (1972, 1983, 1992, 1997, and 2007) and

WHEREAS: Americans want and deserve access to health care insurance for every person that provides coverage for essential benefits and ensures that they can get the health care they need, when they need it, at an affordable price in every community regardless of race, socioeconomic status, gender or sexual identity; and

WHEREAS, while clearly not perfect, the current federal healthcare framework of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), Medicare and Medicaid has provided millions of people with access to healthcare and the ability to get their most basic health needs met; and

WHEREAS, Access to affordable healthcare must be maintained and the cost of healthcare should never prevent people from receiving the care they need; and

WHEREAS, While the ACA does need improvements, the current proposals under consideration by the 115th Congress would destabilize the financial structure of our healthcare system, leave up to 30 million Americans without affordable access to care, increase costs to older Americans and once again leave people with pre-existing conditions without adequate coverage; and

WHEREAS, The ACA has reduced the share of people without health insurance to historic lows by guaranteeing everyone’s right to buy insurance, providing new financial support for buying individual coverage, expanding Medicaid, and encouraging many employers to contribute toward the cost of workers’ health benefits; and

WHEREAS, Repealing the ACA without a replacement will put 30 million people at risk of losing their health benefits entirely and strip away vital protections and benefits from many millions more with Medicare, Medicaid, and workplace coverage; and

WHEREAS, Cutting federal funding to Washington State for Medicaid through block grants or per capita caps will shift health care costs onto our state, force impossible choices between cutting health benefits or even eliminating eligibility for them, take funding away from other essential services, and require state taxpayers to pay more; and

WHEREAS, Cutting federal funding to Washington State will threaten the health care, nursing home care and the long-term supports and the services that allow seniors and people of all ages with disabilities to live independently in their own homes and communities;

WHEREAS, Cutting federal funding to Washington State for Medicaid will threaten the health benefits that, together with the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), ensure that one-in-three children can get the medical care they need; and
WHEREAS, the American Nurses Association (ANA) recently developed a set of Principles for Health System Transformation outlining the profession’s health care priorities (attached) based on Nursing’s Agenda for Health Care Reform (adopted 1991; updated 2007),

BE IT THEREFORE

RESOLVED, that WSNA utilize the ANA Principles for Health System Transformation to evaluate all proposals for State and/or National healthcare legislation, and

RESOLVED, that WSNA encourages all members of the Washington Congressional delegation to oppose attacks on our health benefits, including legislation that:

- Turns Medicare into a voucher system, increases the Medicare eligibility age beyond 65, or in any other way cuts seniors’ Medicare benefits or shifts additional costs onto them;
- Imposes new taxes on or otherwise threatens the health benefits working people earn on the job;
- Repeals the Affordable Care Act without a replacement plan that ensures that anyone with coverage today is able afford it and that maintains key protections for all working families and seniors;
- Repeals the Affordable Care Act’s expansion of Medicaid benefits to millions of people; including replacing it with block grants or imposes a per capita cap on federal funding for Medicaid; and

RESOLVED, That WSNA calls upon all members of the Washington Congressional Delegation to support real reforms that bring us closer to the goal of providing comprehensive, affordable health coverage for all by strengthening and expanding health benefits and controlling and lowering health care costs, so that everyone in America can get the care they need, when they need it, at an affordable price.

RESOLVED, To reaffirm WSNA’s position in support of universal healthcare and that the WSNA endorse Medicare for all.

Sponsors:
Legislative & Health Care Council
WSNA Board of Directors

Approved by WSNA Board Executive Committee April 2017
Adopted by the WSNA General Assembly May 4, 2017