DEVELOP, PARTICIPATE AND REPORT ON A SAFE STAFFING TASK FORCE

WHEREAS, patient outcomes are directly affected by staffing of registered nurses (RNs); and

WHEREAS, research shows that higher staffing levels by RNs lowers the rates of patient falls, infections, readmission, morbidity, and mortality, all of which are directly related to HCAAPS scores and Medicare reimbursement rates to hospitals; and

WHEREAS, current Labor Management Committees/Professional Conference Committees do not ensure safe staffing; and

WHEREAS, current language contained in our collective bargaining agreements does not always ensure safe staffing; and

WHEREAS, current state legislation across the country does not always ensure safe staffing in most acute care facilities; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Washington State Nurses Association (WSNA) through our national affiliates, the National Federation of Nurses (NFN) Coalition, the American Federation of Teachers – Nurses and Health Professionals (AFT-NHP) and the American Nurses Association (ANA) will assist in the development of and will participate in a Safe Staffing Taskforce; and

RESOLVED, that the Safe Staffing Taskforce will include research on all current registered nurse staffing legislation across the United States to provide evidence-based data on the positives and negatives of these bills; and

RESOLVED, that WSNA staff participating on the Safe Staffing Taskforce will share documented findings on a regular basis to both the Economic and General Welfare Cabinet (E&GWC) and the Board of Directors; and

RESOLVED, that WSNA will develop and present a biennial report to the WSNA Biennial Convention in 2021; and

RESOLVED, that as evidenced by the importance of the RN voice at the state legislature, WSNA members are to be encouraged to participate through the WSNA Legislative and Health Policy Council and Nurse Lobby Day.

Submitted by: WSNA Cabinet on Economic and General Welfare