**TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED NURSING EDUCATION REGARDING THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF SKIN CANCER AND SUN PROTECTIVE BEHAVIORS**

**SUBMITTED BY: Molloy College Student Nurses Association, Rockville Centre, NY**

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Abstract: Nursing education is critical in a constantly changing health care system. One particular area of nursing education that needs more emphasis is in regards to skin cancer. Student nurses should be educated on the signs and symptoms of skin cancer as well as preventive measures. By future nurses becoming more knowledgeable about skin cancer, they can teach their patients behaviors to avert and protect themselves from acquiring skin cancer.

WHEREAS, the Surgeon General established a Call for Action to Prevent Skin Cancer in 2014 (<http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/calls/prevent-skin-cancer/call-to-action-prevent-skin-cancer.pdf>); and

WHEREAS, skin cancer is the only form of cancer that is increasing in frequency in the United States and over one million new cases are diagnosed annually. Every 20 seconds someone is diagnosed with skin cancer and one-person dies nearly every hour (American Cancer Society, 2013); and

WHEREAS, one in five Americans will develop skin cancer in their lifetime (American Academy of Dermatology, 2015); and

WHEREAS, Melanoma is the leading cause of cancer death in women aged 25-30 and is second only to breast cancer in women aged 30-34 (National Cancer Institute, 2015); and

WHEREAS, one contributing factor to this epidemic is failure to follow sun protective behaviors and the use of tanning devices (American Academy of Dermatology, 2015); and

WHEREAS, the International Agency for Research on Cancer established that the risk of Melanoma increases by 75% when tanning devices are used before the age of 30 and using a tanning device only one time, can increase the risk for Melanoma by 20% (Masterson and Thorlton, 2012); and

WHEREAS, it is important to educate nursing students as nurses are in an excellent position to perform skin assessments and teach the public about skin cancer prevention, thereby helping to reduce the incidence of skin cancer (Siegel, Stone and George, 2016); therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses’ Association (NSNA) advocate that education regarding skin cancer and sun protective behaviors (as outlined by the CDC) be emphasized in nursing education; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA will provide nursing students education on the topic of skin cancer at the MidYear Conference and Annual Convention at focus review sessions; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNSA will publish an article on skin cancer as well as preventive measures in *Imprint* Magazine, if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA send a copy of this resolution to the American Academy of Dermatology, the National League of Nursing, American Nurses Association, the National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, and all others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.