

Resolution on Assault on Our Rights to Collective Action

Whereas, U.S. and transnational corporations have recognized that the organized power of the working class, through their unions and other workers' organizations, represents the most serious opposition to the global corporate agenda; and

whereas, corporate interests have targeted both organized and non-union workers as an obstacle to their goal to drive down pay, benefits, living standards, civil rights, education, and environmental justice in order to maximize corporate profits and power; and

whereas, corporate interests have disproportionate influence in Congress, state legislatures, and executive offices through their economic clout and lobbying expenditures, and as a result of Citizens United and other court decisions permitting virtually unlimited political spending; and

whereas, corporate influence over the political system, augmented by organizations such as the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) and funded by interests like the Koch brothers and similar networks, has made it a priority to severely weaken the power of unions to fight back; and

whereas, public-sector workers, the area of the greatest growth of unionization due to the weakness of labor law rights for private-sector workers, have been a particular target; and

whereas, public workers have seen a dramatic reduction in their rights to engage in collective bargaining and collective action in a growing number of states, eroding the organized voice of workers who provide critical public services, and seriously weakening their voice in the political process; and

whereas, in the private sector the corporations and their allies, such as the National Right to Work Committee, have made it a priority to promote, fund, and enact so-called "right-to-work" legislation; and

whereas, the root of right-to-work laws date back to the far-right, anti-worker Taft-Hartley Act of 1947; and

whereas, the impact of right-to-work laws was memorably summarized by Martin Luther King Jr.:

"In our glorious fight for civil rights, we must guard against being fooled by false slogans, such as 'right to work.' It is a law to rob us of our civil rights and job rights. It is supported by Southern segregationists who are trying to keep us from achieving our civil rights and our right of equal job opportunity. Its purpose is to destroy labor unions and the freedom of collective bargaining by which unions have improved wages and working conditions of everyone. Wherever these laws have been passed, wages are lower, job opportunities are fewer and there are no civil rights;" and

whereas, "right-to-work" laws guarantee neither rights nor jobs, instead outlawing union shop provisions in collective bargaining agreements in a clear attempt to bankrupt unions by encouraging workers to refuse to pay for union representation even while the union is required to expend its resources to represent all workers in negotiating for improved pay, benefits, and working conditions, and protecting workplace standards; and

whereas, the effect of this ban is to divide unionized workers between those who pay their fair share of dues and those who do not, providing employers with a division between workers they can exploit to weaken the ability of workers to engage in collective action to advance their interests and challenge the corporate agenda; and

whereas, efforts to enact so-called "right-to-work" have surged with "right-to-work" in Michigan, Wisconsin, and Indiana, three states with strong labor traditions, and efforts to pass right-to-work laws in Maine, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Missouri, Kentucky, West Virginia, Illinois, and several other states; and

whereas, for the first time ever, a major national political party, the Republicans, in 2012 called for national right-to-work in their official party platform; and

whereas, right-to-work laws result in a significant erosion of economic, social, and political standards for all workers, whether in unions or not; and

whereas, in states with right-to-work laws, workers earn more than \$5,000 a year less and the rate of workplace deaths is 53 percent higher, than in non-right-to-work states; and

whereas, right-to-work states spend on average nearly \$2,700 less per pupil on elementary and secondary education than in non-right-to-work states, as well as have higher poverty and unemployment rates and lower life expectancy and home ownership rates; and

whereas, corporations and the wealthiest 1 percent benefit disproportionately in right-to-work states with increased corporate tax breaks and incentives and reduced public protections and regulations along with widening economic disparity; and

whereas, with militant and effective unions and leadership, National Nurses United (NNU) has proven that even in right-to-work states, it is possible to build strong, effective unions to successfully organize and win major improvements for RNs and patients, as have our members in the Veterans Affairs, who are also subject to open shop conditions; and

whereas, the right to strike and protest for our patients and our profession is vital in order to protect and advance our collective interests; and

whereas, the experience of our sisters and brothers in so-called “right-to-work” states serves as an inspiration, and reminds us that building a powerful union of RNs must not depend on only those rights that corporations deign to bestow on us.

Therefore, be it resolved, in its 2015 national convention, NNU hereby declares that fighting back against the attack on our legal rights to collective action is a key part of the role of our union; and

be it further resolved, that NNU will mobilize RNs and patients to strenuously resist such legislative and regulatory actions; and

be it further resolved, that NNU will publicly oppose, and work with our allies inside and outside the labor movement to challenge right-to-work legislation, and oppose legislation that limits our right to strike and/or protest in Congress and in states where it is proposed, and similar legislative assaults on working people proposed by ALEC and related organizations and politicians; and

be it further resolved, that successful efforts to defeat “right-to-work” and similar legislation require a broad campaign of education and mobilization of all working people, including NNU and our allies; and

be it further resolved, that NNU will continue to emphasize that unions and the labor movement in general must advocate for the broadest interests of all workers, and reject confining our vision to the narrow scope of parochial interests; and that NNU recognizes that the union movement was born out of struggle to achieve our rights, and that fight has not ended and that the ability to build our union in such conditions requires courage, commitment, and tremendous dedication, as well as many union resources; and

be it further resolved, that NNU’s approach to building effective workplace organization, including public defense of RNs and patients’ rights and rejection of partnership schemes with our corporate adversaries, is the roadmap to the continued survival and growth of the labor movement; and

be it further resolved, that NNU will continue to advocate and promote the view that the movement of working people for justice and a better world depends on building a powerful workplace movement of working people, led by committed and dedicated leaders who understand their role in replacing the corporate vision with one where all workers enjoy the fruits of their labors and full rights for all.

Resolution on Medicare for All

Whereas, the United States celebrates this year the 50th anniversary of Medicare which, along with Social Security that turned 80 this year, are the most popular and successful social programs in the United States, and have guaranteed healthcare and a decent standard of living for older Americans;

whereas, the Affordable Care Act (ACA, also known as Obamacare) is now the “new normal” and defines the structure of the U.S. healthcare system; and

whereas, National Nurses United (NNU) demands a system of guaranteed healthcare as a human right; and

whereas, the insurance coverage expansions under the ACA are helping millions of people, primarily through the expansion of Medicaid in states that have agreed to do so, and that while up to 18 million people will become newly covered, 30 million people will still be left without health insurance; and

whereas, the inability to pay medical bills continues to be the leading cause of personal bankruptcy and people who need medical care should never face bankruptcy as a result of needing care; and

whereas, due to the still largely unregulated high cost of medical care, more than a third of all U.S. adults under the age of 65, at which point they become eligible for Medicare, are foregoing needed medical care, including choosing not to see a doctor, obtaining recommended medical treatment, or failing to fill a prescription, according to recent surveys; and

whereas, our taxes pay for healthcare when we turn 65 and even the Tea Party agrees Medicare works and should not be cut or privatized; and

whereas, healthcare should not be based on a person’s ability to pay, and that obtaining only the healthcare you can afford leaves tens of millions uninsured, the wealthy with access to better care, poor people at the mercy of under-funded Medicaid, workers dependent on their employers, and everyone, including employers, at the mercy of insurance companies and hospitals; and

whereas, registered nurses see and treat an ongoing patient care crisis: patients who forego medical treatment or diagnostic tests they’ve been prescribed or having to choose between paying a medical bill and not paying for their housing, food, or other basic needs or facing financial ruin; and

whereas, everyone will be mandated to buy private insurance, representing a big windfall for insurers, without any limit on the rates they can charge individuals and businesses; and



whereas, every other country in the world — where U.S. corporations build factories and sell services, who are U.S. allies in foreign affairs, and which are U.S. trading partners — use taxes to pay for a national universal healthcare, leaving U.S. based companies at a “competitive disadvantage;” and

whereas, there are dramatically lowered costs for medical procedures and devices in countries with tax-funded national or single-payer health systems; and

whereas, the United States ranks first in cost, and 37th among countries of the world in health outcomes, and worse for infant mortality and life expectancy, according to the World Health Organization, with no relationship between what healthcare costs in the United States, and the quality of care or access to care; and

whereas, a tax-funded single-payer national healthcare system would eliminate insurance premiums, deductibles and co-pays, and denials of medical treatment based on fabricated pretexts solely because insurance companies do not want to pay for needed medical care and because insurance companies make their huge profits by collecting premiums and paying for provision of care cuts into their profits; and

whereas, a tax-funded single-payer national healthcare system would further control skyrocketing healthcare costs through the bulk power of the government to negotiate prices for prescription drugs, implants, other medical devices and services, including specialists, and establish global budgets for hospitals and dramatically lower prices and costs, as all other countries with national systems do; and

whereas, a tax-funded system would relieve worry about bills and bankruptcy; and

whereas, a single-payer national healthcare system would guarantee a single standard of safe, therapeutic care for all regardless of ability to pay; and

whereas, a single-payer national healthcare system would provide comprehensive healthcare benefits, and guarantee patients complete choice of providers, eliminating restrictive insurance networks.

Therefore be it resolved, that NNU is committed to winning single-payer in the states and nationally through a mobilization of registered nurses and a broad campaign based in the labor movement and grassroots support in local communities; and

be it further resolved, that NNU supports federal legislation to enact a national single-payer system, including H.R. 1200, H.R. 676, and H.R. 3241.



Resolution on Endorsement of Presidential Candidate Bernie Sanders

Whereas, caring, compassion, and community are the values at the heart of registered nursing. This is true at the bedside, as nurses advocate for patients and families — and also beyond the walls of the hospital, as registered nurses call for environmental, racial, and economic justice in the name of public health; and

whereas, National Nurses United (NNU), representing some 190,000 nurses nationwide, seeks to uphold that positive vision for the health of this country; and

whereas, Senator Bernie Sanders is 100 percent in alignment with what matters most to RNs, specifically supporting the following program:

BUILDING A SOCIAL MOVEMENT TO HEAL AMERICA

Sanders echoes nurses' values and the social movements of our time, for healthcare for all, for jobs at living wages, for fighting income inequality, for educational opportunity, for environmental justice and action on the climate crisis, for civil rights, voting rights, and ending the systemic racism in policing and the criminal justice system. His campaign offers an opportunity to unify those movements to build a more humane America.

CALLING FOR MANDATORY, FEDERAL NURSE-TO-PATIENT RATIOS

There are no mandatory limits on how many patients can be assigned to an RN in almost all U.S. hospitals, despite study after study showing a direct link between safe RN staffing levels and patient outcomes. California is the only state with such “ratios” laws, won by NNU RNs after years of battling the powerful hospital lobby. Sanders is cosponsoring a federal bill, S. 864, that would mandate ratios for all U.S. hospitals, and it is one of a number of federal and state ratios bills that NNU is pursuing.

LEADING THE WAY IN MEDICARE FOR ALL

Too many Americans, even with the Affordable Care Act (ACA), remain priced out of access to necessary healthcare. Sanders champions what RNs agree is real reform: an improved, expanded Medicare for all.

HOLDING WALL STREET ACCOUNTABLE

With a vision of economic justice, Sanders has demanded Wall Street pay its fair share of taxes and introduced the NNU-backed Robin Hood Tax bill, S. 1371, that, through a 0.5 percent tax on stock market speculation, could raise hundreds of billions to pay for healthcare for all, free public college tuition, more living-wage jobs at living wages, ending AIDS, real action against the climate crisis, and other basic needs.



PROTECTING VETERANS AFFAIRS NURSES

Sanders is a cosponsor of the VA Employee Fairness Act (S. 1257/H.R. 2193), an NNU-backed bill that would allow VA nurses to collectively bargain for better wages and working conditions like other VA employees already do.

VOICING STRONG OPPOSITION TO THE TRANS PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP (TPP)

Sanders also stands out in his outspoken, public opposition to the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which — besides posing serious threats to the environment, food safety, and workers' rights — would allow pharmaceutical giants to drive up drug prices, a life-and-death issue for millions.

PROTECTING WORKERS

“Bernie Sanders has a proven track record of uncompromised activism and advocacy for working people,” says NNU Executive Director RoseAnn DeMoro, who cites his strong opposition to right-to-work laws and willingness to veto a national right-to-work bill.

OPPOSING THE KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

Sanders has vocally opposed and voted against all attempts by Congress to approve the Keystone XL pipeline, an example of activities RNs oppose because they worsen climate change and jeopardize public health.

TAKING ON SYSTEMIC RACISM

NNU recently released a statement on Black Lives Matter and the health impact of societal racial disparities, urging all presidential candidates to address systemic racism and economic inequality. Sanders has done just that, recently declaring that many of the unarmed African Americans killed by police over this past year probably would not have been “if they were white” and calling for demilitarization of the country's police departments.

Whereas, NNU leadership recommended his endorsement to membership, who overwhelmingly supported Sanders in a poll; and

whereas, National Nurses United has endorsed Bernie Sanders for President of the United States.

Therefore Be It Resolved, that National Nurses United will intensively engage our members in the campaign to elect Bernie Sanders President of all the People of the United States of America.



Resolution in Support of the Robin Hood Tax Campaign

Whereas, large banks and other Wall Street firms created an economic crisis from which our country still has not recovered, causing unemployment, foreclosures and homelessness, stagnant or declining wages, escalating income inequality, hunger and insecurity in many families, bankruptcies, a decline in healthcare access, cuts in badly needed public services, including quality education for our children, and stifling student debt that burdens young people facing fewer opportunities; and

whereas, rampant financial speculation continues to gamble away workers' livelihoods and jeopardizes the future of our communities; and

whereas, Wall Street and the big banks are continuing to exploit tax loopholes while generating record profits and being rewarded with billions in bailouts and bonuses; and

whereas, most of the recovery that has taken place since the collapse of the economy thus far has benefited the top 1 percent, not the 99 percent; and

whereas, there is a growing movement called the Robin Hood Tax Campaign that is demanding a robust tax on Wall Street that would raise more than \$300 billion annually to help alleviate the ongoing economic crisis and fund human needs, as well as help fund environmental remediation, sustainable economic prosperity around the world, high-quality public education, including higher education, and HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention efforts; and

whereas, such a tax on the transfer of ownership on the trading of securities, bonds, derivatives, and currency could also help limit reckless short-term speculation that results in higher prices on commodities, such as food, and threatens financial stability; and

whereas, financial transaction taxes are already in place in 40 countries around the world and was the law in the United States from 1914 to 1966; and

whereas, more than 1,000 economists, including several Nobel Laureates, have supported the imposition of a financial transaction tax.

Therefore, be it resolved that the National Nurses United endorses the Robin Hood Tax Campaign which is taking the fight against income inequality to the streets — from confronting finance capital face to face on Wall Street, to protesting privatization, pension theft, and water shutoffs in Detroit, to protesting the austerity agenda of the G8 in Daly Plaza and in the streets of Chicago, to marching across the Golden Gate Bridge to debunk the message that people must choose between a healthy environment and jobs; and

be it further resolved that National Nurses United supports the Inclusive Prosperity Act (H.R. 1464) introduced by Rep. Keith Ellison (D-MN), and the Inclusive Prosperity Act (S. 1371), introduced by Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT), as well as the related, College For All Act (S. 1373), also introduced by Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT), which would impose a small tax of 50 cents on the trade of every \$100 of stocks and a lesser tax on the trade of other financial instruments, and will so inform our members of Congress and U.S. senators; and will inform our members of our support for this important campaign and encourage their involvement.

Resolution on Environmental and Climate Justice



Whereas, the scientific basis for global warming is indisputable and the climate crisis is linked to extreme weather events like hurricanes Sandy and Katrina and Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda in the Philippines, as well as widespread drought conditions, wildfires, and flooding in the U.S. and internationally; and

whereas, greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise as a result of ever-greater amounts of fossil fuels being extracted and burned; and

whereas, if present trends continue, the world is facing a catastrophic increase in average global temperature between 3.7 and 6 degrees Celsius; and

whereas, more than 8 million deaths worldwide are directly attributable to air pollution, primarily from the burning of fossil fuels and lack of access to clean energy, and vector-borne diseases, such as malaria, dengue, yellow fever, and lyme, will spike as temperatures increase; and

whereas, further global warming and climate change will deepen the climate crisis that will magnify the already catastrophic health impacts of fossil fuel pollution, hunger and malnutrition due to desertification, devastation and displacement from severe weather events and sea level rise — all leading to immeasurable human suffering and economic devastation; and

whereas, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has made it clear that global levels of greenhouse gas emissions must be reduced quickly in order to deal effectively with the climate crisis, and serious resources need to be committed to protecting the health and livelihoods of people impacted by climate change; and

whereas, effective action to address the climate crisis is being fiercely resisted by fossil fuel interests, such as Koch Industries, Exxon-Mobil, and BP, that promote the unlimited expansion of fossil fuel extraction and use, including shale gas through fracking, tar sands oil, and deep water drilling in the Arctic, and cynically fund climate change denial campaigns; and

whereas, the amount of carbon contained in known coal, oil, and gas reserves of national oil companies and private corporations is more than five times the level of CO₂ that can be emitted without triggering catastrophic levels of global warming; and

whereas, communities are organizing for environmental and climate justice against the extreme energy agenda of corporations and governments locally, nationally, and globally; and

whereas, despite the illusory promises of thousands of jobs created by the extreme fossil fuel agenda, economists have amply documented that spending on renewable clean energy sources creates many times more jobs as the same spending on fossil fuel production; and

whereas, nurses in the U.S. and around the world recognize that bold action is needed to challenge the political and economic power of the fossil fuel industry to win health and environmental justice in our communities, to mitigate global warming, and avert a full-scale climate crisis; and

whereas, National Nurses United (NNU) members have been in the forefront of public advocacy, in the form of rallies, marches, press conferences, and speaking out before legislative bodies to emphasize public health concerns associated with the climate crisis and extreme energy agenda; and

whereas, NNU members have also participated in Registered Nurse Response Network disaster relief efforts, providing basic medical care services in the United States and the Philippines in direct response to weather disasters aggravated by the climate crisis.

Therefore, be it resolved, that NNU, in the spirit of patient advocacy and a commitment to environmental and climate justice, will continue to engage in active solidarity with allied organizations to resist fossil fuel interests and specific “extreme energy” projects, like Keystone XL and other pipelines, deep sea drilling, tar sands extraction, hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”), new construction of export terminals for coal, petroleum coke and liquified gas, oil trains, and refinery expansions; and

be it further resolved, that NNU will continue to organize emergency relief for communities impacted by climate-related events both in the United States and internationally; and

be it further resolved, that NNU will actively support a global approach to the climate crisis, and shares the international trade union movement’s commitment to secure a new global climate agreement under the auspices of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change no later than December 2015; and

be it further resolved, that NNU will support bold policy proposals to ensure that public services, including health and emergency services, are adequately resourced in order to deal with climate-related events and impacts; and

be it further resolved, that NNU will support the fossil fuel divestment movement as well as appropriate taxation of fossil fuel company profits and sales based on true environmental costs; and

be it further resolved, that NNU will join with unions and other social movements and organizations in the effort to promote public ownership and community-level control of electrical power generation and the effort to transition away from fossil fuels to clean renewable energy; and

be it further resolved, that NNU supports a “just transition” for workers in the fossil fuel and carbon-intensive sectors into jobs in sustainable energy, “green” industries, and public service with full labor rights, and will advocate for a “superfund” for workers and communities negatively affected by the transition from fossil fuels; and

be it further resolved, that NNU will continue to work in our communities, nationally and internationally, to build the movement for environmental and climate justice.

Resolution on Opposing the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP)

Whereas, the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) is a massive trade pact between the United States and 11 other Pacific Rim countries, intended to protect multi-national corporations, which has been negotiated in secret with access to the provisions restricted even for members of the U.S. Congress; and

whereas, under the TPP, pharmaceutical corporations would be given 12 years of exclusive monopoly pricing practices on their patents for high-priced brand-name drugs, blocking access to cheaper, lifesaving generic medications as well as new biologic medicines, all of which are especially critical for people suffering from cancer, HIV/AIDS, hepatitis, and other illnesses; and

whereas, the TPP's concessions to the multibillion-dollar pharmaceutical industry are even opposed by nearly all other TPP partner nations, all of whom would have to pay more for inflated drug prices, as well as international health organizations who warn the ban on affordable medications would lead to countless deaths, especially in poorer nations; and

whereas, the TPP would threaten American consumers with unsafe food by allowing corporations to override U.S. food safety regulations as "illegal trade barriers" on the import of meat, poultry, seafood, and vegetables from nations with weaker limits on use of pesticides and additives in food products; and

whereas, the undemocratic Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) provision of the TPP would allow multi-billion-dollar global corporations to challenge public health, safety, and environmental protection laws in the U.S. or other countries and potentially collect billions of dollars in compensation for the alleged loss of "expected" profits; and

whereas, the ISDS process allows multinational corporations to sue countries through secret international corporate courts, a process already used repeatedly to attack environmental protections, tobacco labeling laws, and other public protections as a result of prior trade agreements; and

whereas, the TPP continues a pattern of corporate-oriented global trade agreements, including the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and similar pacts, that have contributed to widespread job losses in the U.S. and included scores of cases of corporate lawsuits through the ISDS system; and

whereas, the U.S. Senate and House have enacted fast-track authority that requires Congress to approve or reject the TPP on an up-or-down vote with limited debate and without amendments needed to protect American workers and consumers.

Therefore, be it resolved, that the NNU will continue to campaign against the TPP as a significant threat to public health and safety and American democracy; and

be it further resolved, that the NNU will cite opposition to the TPP as a litmus test for potential support for any candidates for federal office; and

be it further resolved, that the NNU will continue to work with allies in the labor, environmental, consumer, health, and other advocacy groups to oppose the TPP and similar trade deals that are harmful to working people in the U.S. and globally.

Resolution on Black Lives Matter and Racial Disparities

Whereas, the pervasive problems of racial and economic justice that have so stained our nation are generating overdue national dialogue and have become a major component of the presidential election campaign; and

whereas, for nurses, the attention to structural racism is a reminder that health, including personal safety, is a broad thematic that affects all corners of the national debate – from police shootings to the courts to incarceration, and racial disparities in healthcare, housing, job opportunities, and education; and

whereas, there are clear correlations between structural racism in the criminal justice system and economic and social justice and, as nurses, we are dedicated to prevent all forms of illness, protect health, and alleviate human suffering; and

whereas, Black Lives Matter. According to a *Washington Post* database, police have shot and killed more than 600 people in 2015, with African-Americans accounting for nearly a third of police shootings as recently as 2012, according to FBI data, even though they account for just 13 percent of the U.S. population; and

whereas, nearly a fourth of those killed did not have a deadly weapon, and 10 percent were completely unarmed, and one-fourth exhibited mental health problems, and others have died while in custody under questionable circumstances, such as Sandra Bland who was arrested and imprisoned after being stopped for a minor traffic violation; and

whereas, racial profiling and harassment, such as “stop and frisk” policies and targeting African-Americans for minor offenses and mental health-related conduct, remain far too prevalent for routine police matters, and excessive police use of force and routine harassment have serious health consequences from loss of life to serious injuries to exacerbating physical and mental health problems; and

whereas, the U.S., with only 5 percent of the world population, has 25 percent of the world’s prisoners, and African-Americans and Latinos, though only one-fourth combined of the population, comprise 58 percent of all U.S. prisoners, and one in three African-American males born today is likely under current practices to spend time in prison; and

whereas, arrests for drug offenses and minimum sentencing laws disproportionately affect African-Americans and Latinos; inadequate health services and malnutrition are increasingly common in prison settings, especially in prisons run by private for-profit corporations; and as the NAACP notes, infectious diseases are highly concentrated in prisons; and

whereas, systemic racism contributes to additional race-based violence, such as the horrific massacre that claimed nine lives in an African-American church in Charleston, SC; and



whereas, racism remains a significant public health issue, with racial disparities still prevalent in access to health services and in health outcomes; and

whereas, African-Americans have shorter life expectancies, higher infant mortality rates, and higher rates of chronic illness, such as higher blood pressure that can lead to strokes and diabetes than whites, and overall racial discrimination significantly contributes to stress and other adverse health factors; and

whereas, African-Americans and Latinos have higher jobless rates than white Americans and have been disproportionately affected by cuts in public sector jobs — long a key area where ethnic minorities, who face greater racism in private employment, have traditionally had greater opportunity — and societal racial disparities are widespread in other areas of life, including education, housing and homelessness, and environmental pollution; and

whereas, the effects of systemic racism results in lower incomes and a wealth gap, significant factors in higher rates of medical bankruptcies, lack of health insurance, failure to seek timely medical care, malnutrition, and stress-related health disorders; and

whereas, structural racism is also reflected in political practices, from voter suppression laws to electoral gerrymandering to racist campaign rhetoric and the use of racist symbols such as the Confederate flag; and

whereas, racism in policing, the criminal justice system, and in economic, social, and political justice represent a clear and present danger to health and an infringement on the human rights of those affected as well as on American democracy.

Therefore, be it resolved, that NNU calls for action and comprehensive solutions to be adopted at all governmental levels, and to be addressed by all candidates in the 2016 electoral campaign; and

be it further resolved, that NNU supports limits on the allowable use of deadly police force with an emphasis on deescalation of conflict, increased community oversight and independent investigations of police shootings and other misconduct, expanded use of body cameras on officers, improved reporting of police shootings and deaths while in public custody, demilitarization of police forces, an end to racial profiling, routine harassment and other racial targeting of minor crimes, and improved racial bias training and diversity in hiring; and

be it further resolved, that NNU calls for prison and sentencing reform to reduce mass incarcerations and disparities, including decriminalizing minor drug offenses, an end to privatization of prisons and racially-influenced minimum sentencing laws, and improved prison and jail health services; and

be it further resolved, that NNU will continue to campaign for genuine, universal guaranteed healthcare based on a single standard of quality care for everyone, best achieved by an upgraded and expanded Medicare for all that would help reduce racial disparities and discrimination in healthcare; and

be it further resolved, that NNU will continue to oppose austerity economic policies that harm all working people and disproportionately affect minority populations, support robust action to combat climate change and environmental devastation that impact low-income and minority communities in higher percentages, and campaign for increased revenue, through a tax on Wall Street speculation that could raise hundreds of billions of dollars annually for living-wage jobs, increased funding for healthcare, housing, and education that would address economic and social justice; and

be it further resolved, that NNU will continue to oppose voter suppression laws, attacks on undocumented immigrants and their families, and other political attacks on the legal and human rights of African-Americans, Latinos, and other under-represented populations.

Resolution Affirming Support for Planned Parenthood

Whereas, millions of Americans continue to be denied equal access to needed medical care due to the profit-focused U.S. healthcare system that is based on ability to pay rather than patient need; and

whereas, Planned Parenthood fills a critical void of providing a variety of major health services and health education to more than five million American women and men every year at more than 800 clinics in all 50 states who, in many cases, do not have other alternatives to needed care due to our broken and dysfunctional healthcare system; and

whereas, Planned Parenthood provides necessary and preventive health services related to screening for breast and cervical cancer, sexually transmitted diseases, diabetes, anemia, thyroid function, liver function, smoking cessation, health physicals, pap smears, yeast infections, contraception, routine lab workups, infertility, and abortion services; and

whereas, one in five U.S. women have visited a Planned Parenthood health center during her lifetime; and

whereas, Planned Parenthood serves a patient population that is disproportionately medically underserved, with 78 percent of its patients with incomes at or below 150 percent of the federal poverty level, 13 percent African-American and 22 percent Latino and many who live in rural areas with few alternatives for medical care; and

whereas, 80 percent of Planned Parenthood patients receive services to prevent unintended pregnancies, and more than 500,000 unintended pregnancies are averted every year as a result of contraceptive services provided by Planned Parenthood that would not have been readily available to women elsewhere; and

whereas, access to affordable birth control gives women flexibility in making decisions about their education, employment, and family size; and

whereas, commitment to women's reproductive health includes not only the right of women to make decisions for themselves on whether and when to have children, but also access to quality healthcare that will support those decisions; and

whereas, all women should be guaranteed the human right of full access to all healthcare services, including reproductive health and family planning decisions, as an essential component of equality to enable them to fully participate in our society; and



whereas, the attack on the rights of women to full healthcare services, including reproductive health services, is supported by the most far-right sectors in the United States and is part of an overall attack on equal rights for all American women; and

whereas, the attacks on Planned Parenthood coincide with the efforts of far right legislators to substantially cut other vital healthcare services as part of an overall austerity agenda; and

whereas, efforts to defund Planned Parenthood in Congress and in various state legislatures are part of an overall attack on organizations that advocate equal rights for all Americans and improved public services.

Therefore, be it resolved, that NNU supports the full and equal rights of all women to full and equal healthcare services, including reproductive and family planning health services, as a fundamental human right; and

be it further resolved, that NNU opposes any efforts to roll back any rights of women, including the right to full and equal healthcare services; and

be it further resolved, that NNU opposes the attacks on Planned Parenthood and attempts to defund Planned Parenthood in Congress and state legislatures; and

be it further resolved, that NNU will urge all national and state legislatures to support Planned Parenthood and to continue funding it at a level that sustains the health services being provided; and

be it further resolved, that NNU will continue to campaign for genuine, universal, guaranteed healthcare, including all needed health services, for all women, men, and children in the U.S. that would best be achieved through a single-payer system such as improving and expanding Medicare to cover all Americans.



Resolution Reaffirming NNU's Commitment to International Solidarity

Whereas, the world is in a protracted global economic crisis on a scale not seen since the Great Depression; and

whereas, this is evidenced in the United States by almost 50 million people currently living below the federal poverty line, including 22 percent of all children; almost half the world's population (more than 3.5 billion people) living on less than \$2.50 U.S. a day and 80 percent living on less than \$10 a day; and by 8 percent of humanity taking home half of global income, with the top 1 percent alone taking home 15 percent; and

whereas, the economic crisis was caused by practices by global financial institutions, which were bailed out by taxpayers and continue to make record-breaking profits; and

whereas, governmental responses from many countries, including the United States, are marked by austerity practices that have resulted in a widening of income disparity; chronic unemployment and underemployment; increased levels of poverty; the defunding of critical social programs, such as healthcare; and widespread environmental degradation; and

whereas, attempts to privatize Social Security and Medicare in the United States as well as similar privatization initiatives on basic services like water and medications in other countries, and the global attacks on healthcare, education, retirement security, and material well-being for children and families persist unabated; and

whereas, several U.S.-based hospital corporations, including Kaiser Permanente, HCA, and Tenet, are engaged in operations in other countries and expanding their global reach as they seek to take advantage of opportunities when governments privatize their national health systems; and

whereas, National Nurses United (NNU) has already committed — through its ongoing support for the Main Street Contract, the Robin Hood Tax Campaign, and helping found Global Nurses United (GNU) — to fight the harmful effects of austerity measures, privatization, cuts in healthcare services, and environmental destruction that are putting people and communities across the planet at risk; and



whereas, NNU members have participated in a number of actions, coordinated with members of Global Nurses United, as well as other nurses, labor, environmental, and community activists around the world on global issues of the climate crisis, cuts in healthcare and other public services, privatization, RN staffing ratios, the Robin Hood Tax, labor rights, and similar international concerns; and

whereas, an injury to nurses, patients, and communities anywhere in the world is an injury to nurses, patients, and communities everywhere.

Therefore be it resolved, that we, as leaders of the largest organization of registered nurses in the United States of America, in allegiance with our brothers and sisters around the world, National Nurses United commits to:

- continue to build Global Nurses United as a cohesive and fighting force to support nurses around the world struggling for a safe, healthy, and more just planet
- fight against the harmful effects of global austerity
- stand up for guaranteed, universal healthcare around the world as a basic human right and against cuts to and privatization of public health programs
- assist the efforts of nurses around the world to secure safe, therapeutic care for all patients with minimum, mandatory nurse-to-patient staffing ratios
- demonstrate solidarity with nurses in other countries struggling to form trade unions to fight for their rights and the rights of their patients and communities
- continue its fight for a Robin Hood Tax here and abroad to generate the revenues needed to fund basic human needs
- fight against the continued degradation of our environment and for a safe and healthy planet for this and future generations.

