

**American Nurses Association  
2008 House of Delegates**

**Resolution**

**Global Climate Change**

**WHEREAS**, ANA has long partnered with environmental agencies and groups such as Healthcare Without Harm, Practice Greenhealth (formerly Hospitals for a Healthy Environment), US Environmental Protection Agency and the University of Maryland, and collaborated on projects such as the Luminary Project and RN no Harm; and

**WHEREAS**, some of ANA's constituent member associations have developed their own environmental task forces, which acknowledges ANA and the CMA's commitment to the environment and addressing environmentally related health concerns and their impact on the nursing profession; and

**WHEREAS**, the ANA has been a leader in the formation of public policy that affects human health and patient advocacy and has adopted a Precautionary Approach which mandates action to counteract potential threats to human health; and

**WHEREAS**, current scientific evidence research conducted by health institutes, environmental groups, higher education institutes and the US government clearly documents the threats posed by global climate change on a massive human and environmental scale; and

**WHEREAS**, "the American Nurses Association (ANA) exists to promote the health of the public and advance the nursing profession through the development and support of prevention programs" (ANA, 2001, 23). Nurses have the responsibility to be aware of broader health concerns such as environmental pollution; and

**WHEREAS**, the ANA and its constituent member associations have an obligation to take action to influence public policy on global climate health threats and to develop and support programs that would allow and encourage nurses to have an impact in the global health environment; therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the American Nurses Association recognizes and publicly acknowledges that the challenges we face as a result of global climate change are unprecedented in human history and it is critical that nurses speak out in a united voice and advocate for change on both individual and policy levels; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the American Nurses Association encourages constituent member associations to support local public policies that endorse sustainable energy sources and reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the American Nurses Association supports initiatives to decrease the contribution to global warming by the healthcare industry.