

**American Nurses Association
2008 House of Delegates**

Resolution

Health Care for Veterans and Their Families

WHEREAS, nursing has a history of providing supportive, quality health care for service members during and after tours of duty in global settings; and

WHEREAS, research has indicated that returning veterans will face multiple reintegration challenges caused by the ongoing changes in the health care environment and a perceived lack of support; and

WHEREAS, the nurse has an ethical responsibility to educate, support and advocate for the returning veterans and their families in access to health care, education and reintegration efforts; and

WHEREAS, the health care system has limited resources and funding to ensure ongoing improvements in health care affordability and access for all individuals, including veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS, nursing has the intrinsic and extrinsic ability to empower, focus and engage legislative efforts to establish an adaptive environment for all veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS, nursing has contact with and the trust of the veteran population to further research opportunities, as well as to empower the veterans and their families in wellness and stability; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the American Nurses Association collaborate with the Federal Nurses Association (FedNA), Department of Defense (DoD), Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to advance health care services and research for the health care needs of Veterans (which would include their family), and be it further

RESOLVED, that the American Nurses Association collaborate with FedNA, DoD, VA & HHS to promote awareness of Veterans' health care access and services; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the American Nurses Association Advocate for recognition of current efforts supporting integrated health care services for Veterans and work toward strengthened care coordination among federal and non-federal agencies; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the American Nurses Association collaborate with Offices of Nursing Services in the Federal Services including direct care nurses to recognize nurse-led innovations improving health care services and Veterans' outcomes.