

Resolution Affirming Professional Nursing as an Academically Prepared Profession

Adopted by the Texas Nurses Association House of Delegates, April 25, 2009

WHEREAS, nursing is a profession and a scientific discipline; and

WHEREAS, the knowledge base for professional nursing practice includes nursing science, philosophy, and ethics, as well as physical, economic, biomedical, behavioral, and social sciences; and

WHEREAS, nurses use theoretical and evidence-based knowledge to collaborate with patients and other providers to assess, interpret, plan, implement, and evaluate care, exercising critical thinking skills; and

WHEREAS, professional nursing is dynamic, rather than static, reflecting the nature of societal needs and the expanding knowledge base of its theoretical and scientific domains; and

WHEREAS, the social contract between society and the profession of nursing and its obligation to those who receive professional nursing care is described in *Nursing's Social Policy Statement, Third Edition*; and

WHEREAS, *Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice* delineates the professional responsibilities of all professional registered nurses engaged in nursing practice, regardless of setting or preparation; and

WHEREAS, the existing and projected shortage of professional nurses exerts urgent pressure on educational institutions to produce registered nurses; and

WHEREAS, responses to such pressures have included the development of innovative education strategies (such as online programs, clinical simulation, and competency testing) and the introduction of new nursing programs in institutions of higher education and in private career colleges; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That TNA affirm that nursing education programs preparing graduates for the professional nursing role maintain the highest educational standards being required to be accredited by one of the regional accrediting agencies; be it further

RESOLVED, that TNA continue to support the development of innovative educational strategies that achieve efficiency and effectiveness in the process of preparing new graduate nurses for safe and competent practice within contemporary practice environments.