

# Resolution on Preparing the Nursing Profession for Health Care Reform

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

**WHEREAS**, nurses and nursing organizations are dedicated stakeholders in the reform of health cares; and

**WHEREAS**, nurses understand the need to invest in a health care system that is patient centered, comprehensive, affordable, accessible and delivers the quality of care all people in America deserve; and

**WHEREAS**, the national community of nursing organizations, a collaboration representing nursing students, RNs, advanced practice registered nurses, nurse executives, nurse educators and researchers have identified measures to address to prepare the nursing profession for health care reform; and

**WHEREAS**, the measures to be improved or addressed are as follows:

1. There is a continuing shortage of professional Registered Nurses who are the single largest group of healthcare professionals in the country and are critical to the delivery of high quality, life-saving, preventive, and palliative health care across all care settings, geographic areas, socio-economic factors, and cultures.
2. When Advanced Practice Registered Nurses are able to provide services to their full scope of practice, they increase access to cost-effective, comprehensive, and high quality care in a patient and community-centered environment.
3. Patient-centered, community-based care coordination models that include a variety of primary and specialty healthcare provider options are proven to be cost-effective and efficient in improving quality health outcomes.
4. Increased research and clinical focus on wellness and health promotion strategies will yield significant improvements in healthcare outcomes nationwide, and produce long-term cost savings that can be reinvested into achieving a healthier population.
5. Transparent reporting of clinical measures and health outcomes by all providers gives the public important information upon which to evaluate the quality and cost of healthcare services, and helps build an evidence base to inform processes of care and identify opportunities for improvement.
6. The use of a nationwide interoperable Health Information Technology (HIT) system that protects the privacy rights of individuals will improve safety and reliability, ensuring cost-effective and coordinated care;
7. The provision of health-related research in a format which is accessible and consumable to nurses at all levels; therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Texas Nurses Association identify these measures in its '09-'10 strategic plan; and

**RESOLVED**, that Texas nurses articulate these measures as a first step to health care reform with administrative and legislative branches of Texas government; and therefore be it further

**RESOLVED**, that Texas Nurses Association educates Texas nurses on these important nursing measures needed for health care reform.