

**New Jersey State Nurses Association
2016 Annual Meeting**

Proposed Resolution

**New Jersey State Nurses Association Resolution in Support
of Legalizing, Taxing and Regulating Marijuana for Adults**

WHEREAS:

The New Jersey State Nurses Association (NJSNA) adopted a Resolution in March 2002 that:

- Recognized the therapeutic value and safety of medically recommended marijuana; and,
- Supported legal access to medically recommended marijuana for patients in New Jersey who are under the care of a licensed health care provider; and,
- Urged the Governor of New Jersey and the New Jersey State Legislature to more expeditiously to make medical marijuana legally available to New Jersey residents who can benefit from it.

The New Jersey Compassionate Use Medical Marijuana Act (CUMMA) was signed into law in January 2010.

New Jersey's CUMMA recognized that marijuana is a safe and effective treatment for a wide range of diseases, symptoms and conditions.

The New Jersey Medicinal Marijuana Program (MMP) is one of the most restrictive programs in the U.S., and it has the most expensive medical marijuana in the country at over \$500 an ounce.

Out of New Jersey's almost nine million residents, only about 6,000 patients in the state have actually be able to gain access to the therapeutic benefits of marijuana because of the highly restrictive nature and prohibitive costs of the MMP.

New Jersey law currently makes possession by adults of small amounts of marijuana illegal; and,

Bona fide patients in New Jersey are still being arrested and still going to jail for the therapeutic use of marijuana; and,

In 2014, New Jersey police made 24,689 marijuana possession arrests, one every 21 minutes; and,

The State of New Jersey (SONJ) spent over one billion dollars in the last decade on enforcement of marijuana possession laws; and

The existing laws concerning small amounts of marijuana waste the enforcement

resources of police, prosecutors and courts that could be better spent on keeping the SONJ safe from serious crime; and

Minorities in the SONJ are nearly three times more likely to be arrested for marijuana possession than Caucasians, despite similar rates of marijuana use; and

An arrest for a single marijuana cigarette in the SONJ can lead to up to six months in jail, loss of a job, a driver's license suspension, up to \$1,225 in fees and fines, immigration consequences, loss of student financial aid, and eviction; and

Despite the prohibition of marijuana and the approximately 800,000 marijuana possession arrests that occur in the United States each year, federal government data estimates that 111 million Americans have tried marijuana and more than 30 million Americans use marijuana each year; and

In 2014 the New Jersey State Municipal Prosecutors Association, whose members are primarily responsible for prosecuting marijuana possession arrests, voted to publicly support the legalization of marijuana, subject to reasonable regulations; and

The editorial boards of the New York Times, Star-Ledger, and the Times of Trenton have endorsed the legalization, taxation and regulation of marijuana; and

The SONJ could receive hundreds of millions of dollars per year in new revenue from the taxation of regulated marijuana sales to adults; and

This new tax revenue can be used to reinvest in our communities, and provide significant improvement in the overall public health of minorities and the residents of the inner cities of the SONJ; and

Regulating marijuana in a State-controlled system will limit access to marijuana to adults aged 21 and over in licensed locations; and

Regulation will ensure strict controls over marijuana advertising, labeling, and quality, preventing access to youth and controlling quality and potency; and

Driving under the influence of marijuana will remain illegal in the SONJ, and regulating marijuana will not change that; and

Marijuana has been successfully legalized, taxed, and regulated in the States of Colorado, Washington, Alaska, and Oregon, as well as in Washington D.C.;

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the New Jersey State Nurses Association recommends to legislators and the Governor that:

The legalization of marijuana is the most efficient and effective way to meet the needs of the vast number of state residents who can benefit from marijuana therapy; and

The legalization of marijuana may provide new funding to improve the public health of all persons and communities affected in the SONJ; and

The legalization of marijuana may result in fair and effective drug policies that encourage a public health approach to drug use and abuse rather than just law enforcement involvement; and

The NJSNA hereby urges the Legislature to pass, and the Governor to sign legislation to legalize, tax and regulate marijuana for adults in the SONJ.

References:

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17. Legalizing marijuana endorsed by NJ municipal prosecutor’s association:
http://www.nj.com/politics/index.ssf/2014/04/nj_municipal_prosecutors_association_endorses_marijuana_legalization.html

Submitted: May 2, 2016

Author: Kenneth R. Wolski, RN, MPA

Reviewed: August 4, 2016 – Resolutions Committee

Approved: DATE

DRAFT

**New Jersey State Nurses Association
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Proposed Resolution

Enact Meaningful Gun Control Legislation

In the wake of multiple mass shootings including the largest mass shooting in US history in Orlando, FL, and on the occasion of the New Jersey State Nurses Association Annual Meeting and Convention, attendees stand in solidarity with the individuals, families and communities impacted by gun violence and with the nurses and other health care professionals who respond and provide care.

DECLARATION

WHEREAS:

In recent years our country has endured unspeakable acts of violence with the common thread in each of these mass-casualty tragedies being easy access to guns.

Easy access to guns and inadequate access to mental health services contributes to an unsafe environment.

At an alarming rate, registered nurses and other health care professionals, in emergency departments, hospitals and clinics across the country, are called upon to care for victims of mass shootings, homicides, suicides, bombings and accidental shootings.

NJSNA commends the nurses and entire health care team at all receiving facilities including Orlando Regional Medical Center for their dedication and professionalism during these tragic events.

Of grave concern to NJSNA are all human rights violations, including hate crimes. *The Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements* calls on nurses to respect all cultures, value systems, sexual orientation or gender expression and act to change those aspects of social structures that detract from health and well-being.

Since 1994, the ANA has considered gun violence to be a public health issue with subsequent policy action calling on the need for limits on the availability of handguns, a ban on assault weapons and a waiting period and background check of purchasers from all venues.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Members of the 2016 NJSNA Meeting declares:

THAT, now is the time for passage of meaningful gun control legislation at the state and federal level to protect society.

THAT, the U.S. Congress should immediately repeal legislative language blocking the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention from conducting gun violence research.

THAT, we all must engage in dialogue with our communities at every level of civil society, and tack action together to address the underlying issues that spawn hate and to stop these unspeakable acts of violence.

Submitted: June 27, 2016
Author: Benjamin Evans, DD, DNP, RN, APN
President-Elect, NJSNA
Reviewed: August 4, 2016 – Resolutions Committee
Approved: DATE

**New Jersey State Nurses Association
2016 Annual Meeting**

Proposed Resolution

New Jersey State Nurses Association 100 Years and Counting

WHEREAS:

The New Jersey State Nurses Association was first conceived on December 4, 1901 at Newark City Hospital.

The New Jersey State Nurses Association was incorporated in 1902 with 112 charter members.

The purposes of the new organization were “legislation and registration for nurses, the advancement of all interests which appertain to the betterment of the nursing profession; also, a professional reciprocity between the nurses of New Jersey and the nurses of other states and countries.

The last authorized history of the New Jersey State Nurses Association was written for the 60th Anniversary October 6, 1962 and the 100th Anniversary October 25, 2001.

NJSNA documents are archived at Rutgers, the State University.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the New Jersey State Nurses Association:

Will approve the research and writing of the history of the Association *100 YEARS AND COUNTING*.

Research be done by volunteers of NJSNA and writing be done by a professional writer authorized by the NJSNA/IFN Boards of Directors.

Submitted: August 1, 2016
Author: Linda M. Gural, RN
Reviewed: August 4, 2016 – Resolutions Committee
Approved: DATE