

Resolution 1
Mississippi Nurses' Association
107th House of Delegates
Biloxi Convention Center
Biloxi, MS

Introduced by: **Tomekia Luckett, PhD, RN, Director, Council on Nursing Education on behalf of the MNA Board of Directors**

RESOLUTION: **Support Increasing Awareness of the Role of Nurses in Identifying, Reporting, and Combating Child Abuse and Neglect**

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect is an important public health problem including all types of abuse and neglect of a child under the age of 18 by a parent, caregiver, or another person in a custodial role that results in harm, potential for harm, or threat of harm to a child¹; and

WHEREAS, children who are abused and neglected may suffer immediate physical injuries such as cuts, bruises, or broken bones, as well as emotional and psychological problems, such as impaired socio-emotional skills or anxiety¹; and

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect and other adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) can also have a tremendous impact on broader lifelong health and wellbeing outcomes if left untreated (for example, exposure to violence in childhood increases the risks of injury, future violence victimization and perpetration, substance abuse, sexually transmitted infections, delayed brain development, reproductive health problems, involvement in sex trafficking, non-communicable diseases, lower educational attainment, and limited employment opportunities)¹; and

WHEREAS, chronic abuse may result in toxic stress and make victims more vulnerable to problems such as post-traumatic stress disorder, conduct disorder, and learning, attention, and memory difficulties¹; and

WHEREAS, the total lifetime economic cost of child abuse and neglect is estimated at \$124 billion each year²; and

WHEREAS, at least 1 in 7 children have experienced child abuse and/or neglect in the past year, and this likely is an underestimate¹; and

WHEREAS, Mississippi Code Title 43. Public Welfare § 43-21-353. Reporting abuse or neglect states "(1) Any attorney, physician, dentist, intern, resident, nurse, psychologist, social worker, family protection worker, family protection specialist, child caregiver, minister, law enforcement officer, public or private school employee or any other person having reasonable cause to suspect that a child is a neglected child or an abused child, shall cause an oral report to be made immediately by telephone or otherwise and followed as soon thereafter as possible by a report in writing to the Department of Human Services,..."; and

WHEREAS, Registered Nurses and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses are committed to the promotion of health and safety issues of the public; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Mississippi Nurses' Association includes working for the improvement of health standards (Article 1; Section 2.A.); and

WHEREAS, the functions of the Mississippi Nurses' Association include promoting, through appropriate means, standards of nursing practice, nursing education, and nursing service (Article 1;Section 3.A.); and

WHEREAS, the functions of the Mississippi Nurses' Association include maintaining communications with members through official publications (Article 1; Section 3.M.).

The Mississippi Nurses' Association, THEREFORE, RESOLVES, to increase awareness of the role of nurses in identifying, reporting, and combating child abuse and neglect by encouraging expanded opportunities for education on the use of screening tools, risk factor identification, reporting and other appropriate resources.

The Mississippi Nurses' Association, THEREFORE, RESOLVES, to increase awareness and advocacy about child abuse and neglect, as appropriate, through articles in the *MS RN*, information disseminated via email, and information disseminated during continuing education events. Such efforts demonstrate nurse advocacy for the health of all the children of the great state of Mississippi and beyond.

¹ "Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect." CDC, 2017. www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/CAN-factsheet.pdf.

² "Child Abuse and Neglect." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/childabuseandneglect/index.html