

Resolution 3
Mississippi Nurses' Association
107th House of Delegates
Biloxi Convention Center
Biloxi, MS

Introduced by: Deloris Slade, MSN, RN, FNP-BC, Director of Council on Organizational Affairs on behalf of the MNA Board of Directors

RESOLUTION: Support Nurses' Role in Increasing Awareness of the Importance of Social Determinants of Health on Patient Outcomes

WHEREAS, *Healthy People 2020* defines social determinants of health as conditions in the environments in which people live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks¹; and

WHEREAS, resources that enhance quality of life can have a significant influence on population health outcomes¹; and

WHEREAS, adopting new vital signs to screen for the nonmedical factors influencing health; committing to helping low-income and non-English-speaking patients get the care they need; guarding against the potential for bias to influence medical care; and understanding the effects of adverse childhood experiences and using trauma-informed care are ways nurses can assist in identifying social determinants of health²; 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 purposes of the Mississippi Nurses' Association include 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.).

The Mississippi Nurses' Association, THEREFORE, RESOLVES, to increase awareness of the role of nurses in identifying social determinants of health to recognize patients' needs, identify available resources, and potentially improve patient outcomes.

The Mississippi Nurses' Association, THEREFORE, RESOLVES, to increase awareness of the importance of social determinants of health on patient outcomes, as appropriate, through publication of 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 people of the great state of Mississippi and beyond.

¹ "Social Determinants of Health: What Affects Health." Center for Disease Control and Prevention. www.cdc.gov/socialdeterminants/faqs/index.htm#faq1.

² "Achieving Health Equity." Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. www.rwjf.org/en/library/features/achieving-health-equity.html.