

**Resolution 2**  
**Mississippi Nurses' Association**  
**105th House of Delegates**  
**Biloxi Convention Center**  
**Biloxi, MS**

Introduced by: **Tonya Harbison, PhD, RN, Director, Council on Health Affairs  
on behalf of the MNA Board of Directors**

**RESOLUTION: Support Increasing Awareness of the Role of Registered Nurses  
in Identifying and Combating Human Trafficking**

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

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a major public health problem with victims suffering an array of physical and psychological issues stemming from inhumane living conditions, poor sanitation, inadequate nutrition, brutal physical and emotional attacks, dangerous workplace conditions, and general lack of quality health care<sup>1</sup>; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking is believed to be the third-largest criminal activity in the world with profits over \$32 billion<sup>2</sup>; and

WHEREAS, the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 defines severe forms of trafficking as: Sex Trafficking, the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act, in which the commercial sex act is induced by force, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained age 18 years of age, and Labor Trafficking. The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery<sup>3</sup>; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that 28 percent of trafficking victims come in contact with the health care system at least once during their time in capture<sup>4</sup>; therefore, significant potential exists for frontline health care professionals to combat trafficking and act as advocates for victims of these crimes; and

WHEREAS, the American Nurses' Association declared a position statement in 2016 supporting that all nurses advocate for human rights of patients, colleagues, and communities<sup>5</sup>; and

## Resolution 2, continued

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

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Mississippi Nurses' Association includes fostering high standards of nursing (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 registered nurses in identifying and combating human trafficking by encouraging expanded opportunities for education on the use of screening tools, victim hotlines, risk factor identification, and other appropriate resources.

The Mississippi Nurses' Association, THEREFORE, RESOLVES, to increase awareness and advocacy about human trafficking, as appropriate, through articles in the *MS RN*, information disseminated via website, and information disseminated via email. Such efforts demonstrate registered nurse advocacy for the health of all the people of the great state of Mississippi and beyond.

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<sup>1</sup> Department of Health and Human Services, Resources: *Common Health Issues Seen in Victims of Human Trafficking*, [http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/orr/health\\_problems\\_seen\\_in\\_traffick\\_victims.pdf](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/orr/health_problems_seen_in_traffick_victims.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), *Human Trafficking/Involuntary Servitude*, <https://www.fbi.gov/investigate/civil-rights/human-trafficking>

<sup>3</sup> Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000, Public Law 106-386, October 28, 2000

<sup>4</sup> Isaac, R., Solak, J., & Giardino, A.P. (2011). Health care providers' training needs related to human trafficking: Maximizing the opportunity to effectively screen and intervene. *Journal of Applied Research on Children: Informing Policy for Children at Risk*, 2(1), Article 8.

<sup>5</sup> American Nurses Association. (2015), *The Nurse's Role in Ethics and Human Rights; Protecting and Promoting Individual Worth, Dignity, and Human Rights in Practice Settings*