

Resolution 3
Mississippi Nurses' Association
105th House of Delegates
Biloxi Convention Center
Biloxi, MS

Introduced by: **Amber Arnold, DNP, RN, Council on Organizational Affairs and Shonda Phelon, DNP, RN, FNP-BC, PMHNP-BC, GNP-BC, Council on Nursing Practice**
on behalf of the MNA Board of Directors

RESOLUTION: Support Increasing Awareness of the Role of Registered Nurses in Combating Opioid Dependence and Associated Deaths

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

WHEREAS, opioid dependence and associated drug-related deaths are serious public health problems in our country; and

WHEREAS, our nation is struggling with an opioid epidemic with more people dying from drug overdose in 2014 than in any year on record, and the majority of drug overdose deaths involved an opioid¹; and

WHEREAS, the economic impact of the opioid epidemic is approximately \$55 billion in health and social costs related to prescription opioid abuse each year² and \$20 billion in emergency department and inpatient care for opioid poisonings³; and

WHEREAS, Registered Nurses practice in a variety of direct-care, care-coordination, leadership, and executive roles, they are often in key position to help patients understand the risks and benefits of pain treatment options and can play a key role in the prevention of opioid overuse and dependence⁴; and

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

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.).

Resolution 3, continued

The Mississippi Nurses' Association, THEREFORE, RESOLVES, to increase awareness of the role of Registered Nurses in educating patients on the risks and benefits of pain treatment options, including, but not limited to, other medication modalities and psychological therapies.

The Mississippi Nurses' Association, THEREFORE, RESOLVES, to advocate for the judicious prescribing of opioids by APRNs with the use of the Mississippi Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP). Such efforts demonstrate registered nurse advocacy for the health of all the people of the great state of Mississippi and beyond.

¹ Centers for Disease Control, Mortality and Morbidity Weekly Report (MMWR), 2015;64, 1-5

² Pain Medicine, 2011;12(4); 657-667

³ Pain Medicine, 2013;14 (10);1534-1547

⁴ American Nurses Association, ANA Issue Brief, The Opioid Epidemic: Addressing the Growing Drug Overdose Problem