Resolution 4 Mississippi Nurses' Association 106th House of Delegates Biloxi Convention Center Biloxi, MS

Introduced by: Tonya Moore, PhD, RN, Vice President

on behalf of the MNA Board of Directors

RESOLUTION: Support Nurses Role in Increasing Awareness of the Importance of

HIV Screening

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 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.); and

WHEREAS, an estimated 1.1 million people in the United States are living with HIV, including about 166,000 people who are unaware of their status and thirty percent of new HIV infections are transmitted by people who are living with undiagnosed HIV ¹; and

WHEREAS, as many as 50,000 new HIV infections occur each year, and many of these are transmitted by people who do not know they are HIV-positive ²; and

WHEREAS, in Mississippi over 500 cases of HIV were diagnosed in 2015 ³ and the burden of HIV is disproportionately high for men who have sex with men (MSM) ⁴; and

WHEREAS, HIV testing is essential for improving the health of people living with HIV and helping to prevent new infections ²; and

WHEREAS, the CDC recommends that all adolescents and adults get tested at least once for HIV as a routine part of medical care, and that gay and bisexual men and others at high risk be tested more frequently ².

The Mississippi Nurses' Association, THEREFORE, RESOLVES, to increase awareness of the role of nurses in educating patients on the importance of HIV testing to combat the spread of the

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HIV disease by individuals who are undiagnosed and to provide for early treatment to improve the health of those diagnosed with HIV.

The Mississippi Nurses' Association, THEREFORE, RESOLVES, to increase awareness of the importance of HIV testing, 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 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, HIV Testing Background, https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/testing/index.html

² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC Fact Sheet, HIV Testing in the United States, August 2016 https://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/newsroom/docs/factsheets/hiv-testing-us-508.pdf

³ Mississippi State Department of Health, Diagnosed Cases of HIV Disease: MS 2011-2015 by Race/Ethnicity, Age, Age Group and Sex

⁴ Mississippi State Department of Health, Mississippi HIV Statistics, http://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/ static/14,0,150,134.html