

**Resolution 3**  
**Mississippi Nurses' Association**  
**108th House of Delegates**  
**Biloxi Convention Center**  
**Biloxi, MS**

**Introduced by:**     **Johnnie Sue Wijewardane, PhD, APRN, FNP-BC, FAANP**  
                                  **on behalf of the MNA Board of Directors**

**RESOLUTION:**     **Support Nurses' Role in Increasing Awareness of the Importance**  
                                  **of Vaccines in Preventing Communicable Diseases**

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WHEREAS, every year thousands of adults in the U.S. become seriously ill, are hospitalized, and even die because of diseases that vaccines can help prevent<sup>1</sup>; and

WHEREAS, on-time vaccination throughout childhood is essential because it helps provide immunity before children are exposed to potentially life-threatening diseases<sup>2</sup>; and

WHEREAS, nurses are at risk for exposure to serious, and sometimes deadly, diseases and appropriate vaccines help reduce the chance of spreading diseases to patients, family members, and the community<sup>3</sup>; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends specific vaccines by age group<sup>4</sup>; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, vaccine-preventable diseases among adults carried an estimated economic burden of approximately \$9 billion, with almost 80 percent (\$7.1 billion) attributable to the unvaccinated<sup>5</sup>; 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 educating patients on the importance of CDC recommended vaccines to combat the spread of communicable diseases.

The Mississippi Nurses' Association, THEREFORE, RESOLVES, to increase awareness of the importance of CDC recommended vaccination, 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.

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<sup>1</sup> "Vaccine Information for Adults", Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/adults/reasons-to-vaccinate.htm>.

<sup>2</sup> "Vaccine for Your Children", Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/why-vaccinate/index.html>.

<sup>3</sup> "Recommended Vaccines for Healthcare Workers," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/adults/rec-vac/hcw.html>.

<sup>4</sup> "Vaccines and Preventable Diseases, Recommended Vaccines by Age", Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/vaccines-age.html>.

<sup>5</sup> Ozawa, O., Portnoy, A., Gentaneh, H., Clark, S., Knoll, M., Bishai, D....Patwardhan, P., (2016), Modeling the Economic Burden of Adult Vaccine-Preventable Diseases in the United States. *Health Affairs*, 35, No. 11, 2124-2132. <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/pdf/10.1377/hlthaff.2016.0462>.