

**Resolution 1**  
**Mississippi Nurses' Association**  
**111th House of Delegates**  
**Biloxi Convention Center**  
**Biloxi, MS**

**Introduced by:** Sandra Arnold, MSN, RN, Director, Council on Organizational Affairs on behalf of the MNA Board of Directors

**RESOLUTION:** Commit to Supporting Registered Nurses and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses in Increasing Awareness of Naloxone in the Reversal of Overdose from Opioids and the Availability of Naloxone in Mississippi

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WHEREAS, Naloxone is a life-saving medication that can reverse an overdose from opioids—including heroin, fentanyl, and prescription opioid medications—when given in time, and won't harm someone if they are overdosing on drugs other than opioids<sup>1</sup>; and

WHEREAS, provisional data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Center for Health Statistics show overdose deaths involving opioids, including fentanyl, increased from an estimated 70,029 in 2020 to 80,816 in 2021<sup>2</sup>; and

WHEREAS, Expanding the awareness and availability of naloxone is a key part of the public health response to the opioid epidemic<sup>3</sup>; and

WHEREAS, through a standing order issued by the Mississippi Department of Health, pharmacists are permitted to dispense by request the narcotic blocker naloxone without an individual prescription<sup>4</sup>; and

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

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<sup>1</sup> Opioid Overdose Prevention Toolkit. (2018). Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services. <https://store.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/d7/priv/sma18-4742.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Overdose Deaths In 2021 Increased Half as Much as in 2020 - But Are Still Up 15% (cdc.gov).

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.hhs.gov/surgeongeneral/reports-and-publications/addiction-and-substance-misuse/advisory-on-naloxone/index.html>

<sup>4</sup> Naloxone | Mississippi Board of Pharmacy (ms.gov).

WHEREAS, the purposes of the Mississippi Nurses' Association include working for the improvement of health standards<sup>5</sup>; and

WHEREAS, the functions of the Mississippi Nurses' Association include promoting, through appropriate means, standards of nursing practice, nursing education, and nursing service<sup>6</sup>.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mississippi Nurses' Association commits to support registered nurses and advanced practice registered nurses in increasing awareness to patients and the public of naloxone in the reversal of overdose from opioids and the availability of naloxone to individuals in Mississippi.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mississippi Nurses' Association commits to increase awareness of naloxone in the reversal of overdose from opioids and the availability of naloxone to individuals in Mississippi, as appropriate, through articles published in the *MS RN*, information dissemination via electronic media, webinars, and 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>5</sup> Mississippi Nurses Association (MNA). (2022). Bylaws: Article 1, Section 2.A. Madison, MS: Author.  
<https://www.msnurses.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/MNA-Bylaws-Final-as-voted-on-at-2020-convention.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> Mississippi Nurses Association (MNA). (2022). Bylaws: Article 1, Section 3.A. Madison, MS: Author.  
<https://www.msnurses.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/MNA-Bylaws-Final-as-voted-on-at-2020-convention.pdf>