RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That Oregon Nurses Association on behalf of its members becomes a signatory to the Nightingale Declaration for Our Healthy World.

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE:

The Nightingale Initiative for Global Health (NIGH) was begun in November 2003 and has three components:

1. A grass-root to global Nightingale Declaration Signature Campaign
   a. Goal: to gather at least 2 million electronic signatures from all 192 member states of the United Nations;
2. A proposed UN Resolution for an International Year of the Nurse in 2010;
   a. Goal: Adoption of this UN Resolution.
3. A proposed UN Resolution for a UN Decade for a Healthy World - 2011 - 2021.
   a. Goal: Adoption of this UN Resolution.

The first step, the Nightingale Declaration for Our Healthy World, is as follows:

“We, the nurses and concerned citizens of the global community, hereby dedicate ourselves to the accomplishment of a healthy world by the year 2020. We declare our willingness to unite in a program of action, sharing information and solutions to resolve problems and improve conditions - locally, nationally, and globally - in order to achieve health for all humanity. We further resolve to adopt personal practices and to implement public policies in our communities and nations, making this goal for the year 2020 achievable and inevitable, beginning today in our own lives, in the life of our nations and in the world at large.”

Oregon Nurses Association, comprised of nearly 11,000 registered nurses, has focused on issues related to cost of health care, provision of nursing care by nurses in all roles, and creation of a coherent and effective health care system through past and present health policy efforts. While ONA’s members participate in actions at the level of their work place and the state, it is important that ONA’s members also participate in global initiatives which remind the world of the presence and importance of nurses to the solutions faced in global health care. Participation as a signatory of this declaration would further ONA’s efforts in this area and would visibly demonstrate professional nursing citizenship at a global level. Finally, other CMA’s have signed on to this work.

IMPLEMENTATION:

- ONA becomes a signatory to the Declaration on behalf of its members;
- ONA publishes web and print information about the NIGH on a regular basis;
- Nurse members of ONA make personal decisions congruent with the intent and spirit of the declaration.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: None known.