In Support of Revising the ONA Health Policy Platform

WHEREAS, the American Nurses Association “believes every single person, including nurses, should have access to the highest quality and safest care. Health care is a basic human right”.

WHEREAS, ONA supports policies and programs that promote access to health care for all.

WHEREAS, the current system of health care is inequitable, discriminatory, and disproportionately impacts historically marginalized communities.

WHEREAS, the current insurance based system of care often denies or delays care for people they need when they need it.

WHEREAS, we believe that access to care should not be based on income or employment status.

WHEREAS, current financial resources often go to corporate profits and are wasted in administrative complexities instead of promoting better care including the need for nurse staffing, nursing education, the training of other health care providers, and to improve public health.

WHEREAS, the RAND Report of 2017 identified the single payer system of financing as the only one that could provide access to care for all without increasing costs.

WHEREAS, the current healthcare system is not cost effective, is not affordable, does not meet the healthcare needs of those in Oregon, and contributes to healthcare provider burnout.

WHEREAS, ONA’s current Health Policy Platform was adopted in 2016 and contains information that is outdated in the context of the currently available data on the adverse financial impacts and inequities of the current insurance based system.

RESOLVED that the Oregon Nurses Association will revise the Health Policy Platform so as to do the following: a) reflect the above and the need for transformation of the healthcare system; b) work for the removal of all barriers to accessing health care; c) better serve the needs of nurses and the individuals, families and communities they serve; and d) improve the health of individuals, families and communities.

RESOLVED that while the Health Policy Platform is being revised, the principles guiding consideration, recommendation, support, and/or adoption of policy will consider the above and how they: a) address the need for transformation of the healthcare system; b) remove barriers to accessing health care; c) better serve the needs of nurses and the individuals, families and communities they serve; and d) improve the health of individuals, families and communities.