

Wisconsin Nurses Association
2008 Proposed WNA Reference Report #2

Subject: Assuring the Currency and Relevance of Official WNA Position Statements

Introduced by: WNA Reference Committee

WNA Core Issue(s): Relevant to all core issues

Summary: The Wisconsin Nurses Association uses a number of formally approved position statements as the primary mechanism for determining association priorities and actions. These position statements are usually in the form of reference reports (actions by the membership at the annual business meeting), formal position papers (approved by the Board of Directors) and “white papers” (approved by the Board of Directors).

These positions are used by Association leadership and staff when communicating with legislators, regulators, other associations, the media, etc. The WNA delegates to the ANA House of Delegates (HOD) use the Association’s position statements to direct how they act/vote on important issues that come to the HOD.

Given how they are used, it is important that these positions statements be reviewed, revised and reaffirmed regularly to assure that they remain current and relevant in an always changing health care environment.

Recommendations: That the Wisconsin Nurses Association:

- 1. Establish as association policy that all association position statements regardless of format will “sunset” unless they have been reviewed, revised and reaffirmed within ten years of adoption or reaffirmation and,**
- 2. Establish a procedure for tracking all position statements as to time elapsed since the most recent approval and initiating the appropriate review/revision process for reaffirming or rescinding position statements prior to the elapse of ten years or earlier as appropriate.**

WNA Goal – Goal III. Promote the existence of the Wisconsin Nurses Association as a multipurpose organization that will continue to be strong and effective at the local, state, and national levels.

Fiscal Note: There is not a financial impact to the organization. The WNA Board will develop and implement a process for reviewing past WNA positions and forward to the appropriate group for review, comment and recommendations.