

Wisconsin Nurses Association

2008 Proposed WNA Reference Report #1

**Subject: Human Trafficking**

**Introduced by: WNA Delegates to 2008 ANA House of Delegates Meeting**

**WNA Core Issue(s): Patient Safety/Advocacy**

**Summary:** Human Trafficking was presented by the New York State Nurses Association and recognized at the ANA House of Delegates (HOD) 2008 as a serious Health concern nationwide. The HOD affirmed the need for registered nurses to understand the seriousness and significance of human trafficking in order to recognize the impact on public health and respond accordingly, being knowledgeable, alert and prepared to assist in the identification of trafficking victims, reporting suspected incidents and preventing its proliferation. This is a collaborative need between local and federal agencies as well as health professional associations. There is a critical need for attention to and increased awareness of problems of violence against women in order to reduce immediate and long term physical and psychological injuries. Through knowledge and clinical skills, nurses engage in the assessment, intervention and prevention of sexual assault and domestic violence. Violence against women is a critical public health problem and a human right issue. Human trafficking is a global issue annually impacting approximately 800,000 innocent victims, most of whom are women and children. The physical, emotional and social costs of trafficking have a cascading effect on the overall health of individuals, families and the community at large. Registered nurses are at the forefront of public health and responsible for assessment, evaluation and intervention. WNA is a multipurpose organization with strong ties at the local, state and national level as well as a proponent of quality health care services for all people. These goals would provide credence to supporting interventions in the area of human trafficking.

**Recommendations: That the Wisconsin Nurses Association:**

- 1. Affirm that the global issue of human trafficking is pertinent to the public health of our nation and therefore impacts the profession of nursing.**
- 2. Advocate for and seek opportunities that provide nurses with information and skill sets necessary to properly identify and refer victims of trafficking.**
- 3. Advocate for and support legislative activities that further enhance protection in an effort to decrease the incidence of trafficking.**

**WNA Goals**

Goal I. Collectively and collaboratively advocate for access to comprehensive quality health care services for all people.

Goal II. Assure that the registered nurse is an essential provider in all practice settings through education, research, workplace advocacy, legislation and regulation.

**Fiscal Note:**

No additional fiscal impact for WNA. The activities will be included as part of WNA's Government Affairs and Education Programs.