

**American Nurses Association  
2012 House of Delegates**

**Resolution**

**Reproductive Rights of Registered Nurses Handling Hazardous Drugs**

**WHEREAS:**

There is significant evidence indicating that hazardous drug handlers' exposure to hazardous drugs in their daily work routine may affect their health; and

Both animal and human studies have shown that exposure to hazardous drugs can lead to reproductive health effects in health care workers handling these drugs and developmental effects in their offspring; and

Providing alternative duty is a recognized risk management strategy to protect the health of these health care workers' offspring;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the American Nurses Association will:**

Advocate that it is essential for all health care facilities to educate nurses who handle hazardous drugs about the risk of reproductive and developmental effects that have been associated with exposure to these drugs; and

Actively advocate for the right of nurses to engage in alternative duty that does not require hazardous drug handling when trying to conceive, when pregnant and when breastfeeding.