

**American Nurses Association
2004 House of Delegates**

Resolution

Environmental Health Principles in Nursing Practice

WHEREAS, The American Nurses Association (ANA) is a partner in Health Care Without Harm (HCWH), an international coalition of hospitals, healthcare systems, healthcare professionals, community groups, health-affected constituencies, labor unions, religious groups and environmental and environmental health organizations; and

WHEREAS, ANA is a partner in the Hospitals for a Healthy Environment (H2E) project with the American Hospital Association, Environmental Protection Agency and Health Care Without Harm educating and activating hospitals in mercury elimination, waste reduction and the phase out of persistent bioaccumulative toxins; and

WHEREAS, ANA's *Code of Ethics for Nurses* in Provision 8 notes that the nurse has a responsibility to be aware not only of specific health needs of individual patients but also of broader health concerns such as environmental pollution; and

WHEREAS, In October 2003, ANA's Board of Directors issued a statement in support of the Precautionary Principle, a policy that urges precaution in the face of scientific uncertainty in the delivery of health care; and

WHEREAS, Certain Constituent Member Associations (CMAs) of ANA have endorsed HCWH's Providers Statement on Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxic Chemicals (PBTs); and

WHEREAS, Individual nurses are very concerned about the potential for harm to human health or the environment from health care interventions, treatments or technologies; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the American Nurses Association provide leadership for nurses and the profession by developing environmental health principles that are based on the Precautionary Principle; and

RESOLVED, That the American Nurses Association collaborate with nursing and other relevant organizations to actively support public policy that endorses these principles; and

RESOLVED, That the American Nurses Association urge state and local nursing organizations to lobby their state and local governments to adopt the Precautionary Principle.