Correspondence – American Nurses Association

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August 22, 1974

Governor Jimmy Carter
1974 Campaign Chairman
Democratic National Committee
P. O. Box 1524
Atlanta, Georgia 30301

Dear Governor Carter:

It is my pleasure to respond to your letter of July 24, 1974 and to enclose two resolutions of the House of Delegates of the American Nurses' Association:

- Resolution on Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- Resolution on National Health Insurance

These two actions of the national voting body of the ANA reflect major concerns of the nursing profession on which we believe the national, state and local governments should act.

National health insurance is by far the major issue before the health professions at this time. The ANA views health care as a basic human right and finds that a program of national health insurance benefits is essential to guarantee that right for all people without regard to race, age, sex, economic or social position.

ANA believes that comprehensive health care benefits, as distinguished from medical care benefits, should be guaranteed under a system of national health insurance; and that the structure of benefits and payments should recognize nurses as providers of health care and nursing services as a distinct benefit of the insurance program.

Concomitant with preparation for and implementation of a program of national health insurance attention must be given to comprehensive health planning, and to development of health manpower and other resources. Of particular significance at this time is funding for education of professional nurses for primary care services, specialized clinical practice, teaching and administration of nursing services.

You will note in the enclosed resolutions the positions and interests of the American Nurses' Association in such matters as the Equal Rights Amendment, civil rights, collective bargaining, income maintainence, education, firearms control, judicial and correctional system reform.

...continued...

Governor Jimmy Carter August 22, 1974

The American Nurses' Association is the national professional organization of Registered Nurses with constituent associations in every state. The state nurses associations are each deeply involved in legislative activities in regard to nursing, health, welfare and education.

I am certain representatives of ANA would be pleased to discuss with you the issues of concern to the nursing profession.

Sincerely,

Eileen M Jacobi

Eileen M. Jacobi, R.N., Ed.D.
Executive Director

EMJ:MFC:bem

Enclosures

AMERICAN NURSES' ASSOCIATION

RESOLUTION ON THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

WHEREAS, the International Council of Nurses has endorsed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and requested its member associations to take appropriate steps to support and implement the objectives as set out in the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, and

WHEREAS, the United States actively supported and voted for approval of the Declaration of Human Rights in the General Assembly of the United Nations on December 10, 1948, and

WHEREAS, the President's Commission for Observance of Human Rights Year - 1968 measured the progress of the United States towards achievement of the standards embodied in the Declaration, and

WHEREAS, the United States has enacted many and fine laws dealing with cultural, civil, political and economic rights, and yet millions of its citizens are poor, too many are illiterate, malnourished and poorly housed, lacking health care; and minorities are still striving for basic rights and opportunities, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the American Nurses' Association support all efforts to advance the unfinished business of achieving the common standard set forth in the U.N. Declaration of Human Rights - 1948 within the United States, including:

Amendment of the United States Constitution to provide that equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.

Clear authority, moral support and adequate funding for agencies of government responsible for implementation of civil rights legislation so that there is equal protection of every individual's right to vote, to have food and shelter, health care, education, employment opportunities, and enjoy the benefits of public services.

Reform of the judicial and penal systems so that the dignity and rights of all persons are protected.

Self government for the citizens of the District of Columbia with appropriate voting representation in the Congress of the United States.

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Legislation to provide for federal regulation of the ownership and use of lethal weapons.

Protection in the law of the right of all working people to organize and bargain collectively, including employees in health services, agriculture and public service.

A national policy and program for income maintenance with full attention to the dignity of the individual and to the integrity of the individual and the family.

A national health program that provides equal access to comprehensive health services of high quality with full attention to the dignity and integrity of the individual.

Continuing effort to improve the quality of teaching throughout the educational system, provision of equal opportunities for all pupils, abolition of racial isolation in schools and opportunities for students to interact with others of diverse racial and ethnic background.

Ratification by the United States Senate of the following conventions submitted by Presidents of the United States:

Political Rights of Women (OAS and UN)

Genocide (UN)

Freedom of Association (ILO)

Forced Labor (ILO)

Employment Policy (ILO)

Submission to the Senate and ratification of the following conventions signed by the United States:

Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age of Marriage, and Registration of Marriages

Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Adopted by ANA House of Delegates
Detroit, Michigan - May 1972

mt-5/23/72

AMERICAN NURSES' ASSOCIATION
HOUSE OF DELEGATES
RESOLUTION
NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE

WHEREAS: health, a state of physical, social and mental well-being is a basic human right, and

WHEREAS: government at all levels must act to insure that health care services are provided for all citizens, and

WHEREAS: there is a need for integrated systems to deliver comprehensive health care services that are accessible and acceptable to all people without regard to age, sex, race, social or economic condition, and

WHEREAS: there is a need for a national program designed to correct serious inadequacies in present health care delivery systems, and

WHEREAS: nursing care is an essential component of health care; therefore, be it

RESOLVED: that the American Nurses' Association aggressively work for the enactment of legislation to establish a program of national health insurance benefits, and be it further

RESOLVED: that the national health insurance program guarantee coverage of all people for the full range of comprehensive health services, and be it further

RESOLVED: that the scope of benefits be clearly defined so that they can be understood by beneficiaries and providers alike, and be it further

RESOLVED: that the national health program clearly recognize the distinctions between health care and medical care; and that the plan provide options in utilization of health care services that are not necessarily dependent on the physician, and be it further

RESOLVED: that nursing care be a benefit of the national health program, and be it further

RESOLVED: that the data systems necessary for effective management of the national insurance program protect the rights and privacy of individuals, and be it further

RESOLVED: that the plan include provisions for peer review of services that will protect the right and the responsibility of each health care discipline to monitor the practice of its own practitioners, and be it further

RESOLVED: that there continue to be a system of individual licensure for the practice of nursing, and be it further

RESOLVED: that provision be made for consumer participation in periodic evaluation of the national health insurance program, and be it further

RESOLVED: that the national health insurance program be financed through payroll taxes or payment of premiums by the self-employed, and purchase of health insurance coverage for the poor and unemployed from general tax revenues, and be it further

RESOLVED: that ANA strongly urge the designation of nurses as health providers in all pending or proposed legislation on National Health Insurance.

Adopted by ANA House of Delegates
June 10, 1974