

2003 MONA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SUBJECT: Supporting Health Care Reform
INTRODUCED BY: MONA Board of Directors

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: ANA and MONA are committed to ensuring access to health care for all people. Since 1994, when efforts at comprehensive health reform were defeated, a number of notable efforts have been made to increase health care access for specific target populations. Unfortunately, the number of uninsured remains unacceptably high. In Missouri, the State has cut the Medicaid program because of its budget crisis thus eliminating coverage for many adults. This combined with a high unemployment rate has resulted in an increasing number of Missourians without health insurance. We must support progressive steps that can and should be taken to alleviate the problem of many Missourians who do not have health care coverage.

RECOMMENDATIONS

WHEREAS, health care reform continues to be a state and national issue; and

WHEREAS, there are nearly 43 million uninsured nationwide; and

WHEREAS, too many Americans/Missourians are not reached by employer-based insurance, private plans or existing public programs; and

WHEREAS, insurance premiums for employer-based programs are increasing annually by double-digit percentages creating a national crisis; and

WHEREAS, employers are reducing or cutting health insurance benefits provided; and

WHEREAS, the population of the state of Missouri is aging and the state faces severe budget deficits; and

WHEREAS, the State of Missouri's budget crisis resulted in cuts to the Medicaid program for adult coverage;

WHEREAS, nurses continue to be the primary licensed health care providers within the health care system; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Missouri Nurses Association will:

1. Commit to be an active force in shaping current debates on the Missouri health care system.
2. Support progressive steps toward comprehensive reform to assure access to care for all.