

**American Nurses Association
2012 House of Delegates**

Resolution

Rights of Registered Nurses Handling Hazardous Drugs

WHEREAS:

There is significant evidence indicating that hazardous drug handlers are exposed to hazardous drugs in their daily work routine; and

There is over 20 years of documented research showing that this exposure has led to compromised health outcomes by nurses who handle these drugs, their fetuses and potentially by their breast-feeding infants as well as by other health care workers and bystanders; and

There are interventions that can mitigate this exposure based on the occupational hierarchy of controls and medical surveillance; and

A facility's organizational factors, such as safety climate, have been shown to increase compliance of health care workers to safety precautions;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the American Nurses Association will:

Support the right of nurses to practice in organizations that provide medical surveillance modeled on the NIOSH recommendations for medical surveillance for hazardous drug handlers; and

Reaffirm efforts that support the right of nurses to practice in health care facilities where hazardous drug safe handling practices modeled on the NIOSH guidelines are in place and are promoted and where resources are provided that allow hazardous drug handlers to comply with the guidelines; and

Reaffirm the adoption of the NIOSH definitions for both antineoplastic agents and hazardous drugs by health care facilities and also that these facilities have a regularly updated list of drugs that are to be considered hazardous; and

Advocate for legislation that requires health care employers to take precautions to prevent exposure to hazardous drugs by health care workers.