



BOD Resolution: Social and Healthcare Equity

Whereas, racial and social inequality continues to assert itself throughout our society in the form of shocking and historically unprecedented levels of income and wealth inequality, unequal access to education, employment, housing and other basic human rights, and disparities in the ways that people are treated by the police and justice system;

Whereas, unequal and inequitable treatment of patients and communities based on race, immigration status, source of insurance, income, social standing, and other factors is widely acknowledged to constitute a public health emergency;

Whereas, our healthcare system is increasingly two-tiered, with low-income, immigrant, uninsured, Medicaid and underinsured patients receiving less access to services, poor quality or unmaintained facilities, lower staffing levels, denial of care or of certain kinds of care, and other disparities;

Whereas, communities of color are particularly affected by disparities and unequal treatment in the healthcare system, resulting in higher infant and maternal mortality rates, shorter life expectancy, higher hospitalization and mortality rates from COVID and other communicable diseases, lower likelihood to receive treatment for psychiatric and substance use disorders, and other indicia of the systemic effects of unequal treatment;

Whereas, women's healthcare services, particularly for poorer women, are under increasing threat from ongoing income inequality, gender discrimination in the workplace, and legal attacks against access to reproductive healthcare and contraception, worsened by the recent decision to overturn the constitutional protections of *Roe v. Wade*; and,

Whereas, other marginalized communities, such as LGBTQ+ and immigrant people, also suffer the effects of disparities in care and a two-tiered healthcare system;

Therefore, be it Resolved:

1. NYSNA will continue the fight to guarantee universal and equal healthcare services to all patients without regard to income, race, gender or gender identify, immigration status, source of payment, lack of insurance or ability to pay, or any other basis;
2. NYSNA continues to advocate the implementation of the NY Health Act or another universal single-payer health system as a top organizational goal;
3. NYSNA will include proposals and negotiate agreements that address broader disparities, inequalities and healthcare disparities in our hospitals and other facilities;
4. NYSNA will continue to advocate for legislation, regulations, and budget financing to systemically address inequality and disparities in the broader society and economy, as well as in the provision of healthcare to our patients.