



BOD Resolution: Supporting Public Health Systems

Whereas, the COVID pandemic has revealed the weaknesses and lack of preparedness in preventing and responding to pandemics and other public health emergencies;

Whereas, our public health infrastructure is the first and most important line of defense in protecting the people of New York from serious threats to their health and safety;

Whereas, public hospital systems across the state provide vital health care, including regional trauma services, specialty care for underserved communities, safety-net services to uninsured and underinsured patients, and public health networks to prevent and respond to disease outbreak and treat endemic and chronic health conditions;

Whereas, public health nurses employed at the county and local government level are essential to preventing and responding to public health emergencies;

Whereas, school-based nurses protect the health and safety of our children and their families;

Whereas, our public health infrastructure is inadequate to prepare for and respond to future health emergencies; and,

Whereas, the state and local governments must take measures to increase staffing of public health services and to recruit and retain nurses to staff an expanded public health infrastructure;

Therefore, be it Resolved:

1. NYSNA will make it a top organizational priority to ensure that all nurses working in the public sector are guaranteed salaries, health and pension benefits, and working conditions that will allow for an expansion of the public health workforce and will ensure recruitment and retention of nurses who do this critical work;
2. NYSNA will advocate at the federal, state, and local level for increased funding to expand the capacity of public health systems to prepare for and respond to ongoing and future public health emergencies; and
3. NYSNA will advocate through collective bargaining and advocacy to ensure that all public health facilities and government health services are fully and properly staffed to enable them to fulfill their vital public health role.