**TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF INCREASING AWARENESS AND ADVOCATING THE USE OF CAR SEATS IN CHILDREN**

**SUBMITTED BY: University of Iowa Association of Nursing Students**

**AUTHORS: Anne Parker and Brianna Nelson**

WHEREAS, In an Article published by The Official Journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics, states that “Suboptimal child passenger restraint practices contribute to crash related injuries which remain a leading cause of childhood death in the United States” (Cunningham et. al, 2014, p. 263); and

WHEREAS, The Department of Motor Works notes “Iowa laws states a child under 1 year old who weighs less than 20 lbs. must be secured in a rear-facing child restraint system; a child under 6 years old must be secured in a safety seat or booster seat. A seat belt alone is not appropriate. Children between 6 years old and 11 years old must be secured in a child restraint system or by a safety belt. All children under 18 years old must wear a seat belt” (Safety Laws in Iowa, n.d., p. 1); and

WHEREAS, The Center for Disease Control and Prevention indicates that “The Community Preventive Services Task Force found that child passenger restraint laws increased car seat use by a median of 13%, decreased deaths by 35%, and decreased injuries and deaths combined by 17%” (Prevention Status Reports, 2014, p. 2); and

WHEREAS, Cunningham, et. al further states “Children who are unrestrained or sitting in the front seat face the greatest risk for death in motor vehicle collisions"(Cunningham et. al, 2014, p. 263); and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Department of Transportation National Highway Traffic Safety Administration mentions that “Among children under age 5 in passenger vehicles, an estimated 309 lives were saved in 2009 by restraint use… At 100 percent child safety seat use for children under age 5, an estimated 273 (that is, an additional 63) could have been saved in 2009” (Traffic Safety Facts, 2009, p. 2); and

WHEREAS, “Age appropriate child safety seat use reduces injury risk by 50% to 75% and provides increased protection over seat belts in crashes” as published in The Official Journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics (Cunningham et. al, 2014, p. 263); and

WHEREAS, An article in The American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons states, “Legislation and public service campaigns can increase awareness regarding appropriate use of automobile restraint systems to decrease pediatric injury and fatality rates” (Troung, 2013, p. 323); therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Iowa Association of Nursing Students (IANS) encourage its constituents to advocate and increase awareness for child car seat use; and be it further

RESOLVED, That IANS promotes knowledge regarding the effectiveness and need for car seat safety in nursing school curriculum; and be it further

RESOLVED, That IANS and nursing schools in Iowa collaborate with supporting health care facilities to increase education regarding child safety seats in the community; and be it further

RESOLVED, that IANS creates educational resources, such as pamphlets and brochures, to be distributed to parents in hospitals, well-child visits, schools, and for public health use that clarify Iowa seat belt laws while stressing the importance of child safety seat education; and be it further

RESOLVED, that IANS sends a copy of this resolution to the Association of Public Health Nurses, the Iowa Department of Education, the Iowa Department of Pubic Health, the National Association of School Nurses, the Iowa Head Start Association, the Iowa Department of Transportation, the Iowa Nurses Association, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the Society of Pediatric Nurses, the Association for the Advancement of Automotive Medicine, the Emergency Nurses Association, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, the Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety, the Air and Surface Transport Nurses Association, and all others deemed appropriate by the IANS Board of Directors.