Resolution # 4

**TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF RAISING AWARENESS ON THE PREVELANCE OF UNINSURED CHIDREN AND ASSOCIATED HEALTH DISPARITIES**

**SUBMITTED BY: Mercy College of Health Sciences**

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WHEREAS, “Children younger than 18 years old comprise 24% of the US population, equivalent to 73.5 million Americans” (Flores & Lesley, 2014, p. E1); and

WHEREAS, according to Flores & Lesley (2014), “seven million children (9%) have no health insurance (p. E2); and

WHEREAS, “Uninsured neonates were 2.6 times more likely to die compared to those with private insurance, Medicaid, or Medicare. Uninsured status was a greater predictor of death for neonatal patients compared to sepsis, obstetrical conditions and complications, respiratory distress syndrome, or multiple births” (Winters, 2013, p. 1); and

WHEREAS, according to Morriss (2013), “One possible explanation for the increased odds of death associated with lack of insurance is decreased access to neonatal intensive care” (p. 1246); and

WHEREAS, “A second possible explanation for the increased risk of death associated with lack of insurance is that resource utilization was reduced for uninsured patients, wherever they were cared for. Indeed, uninsured discharged patients had shorter adjusted lengths of stay than did insured ones” (Morriss, 2013, p. 1248); and

WHEREAS, “Uninsured infants with critical and noncritical congenital heart diseases had approximately 3 times and 2 times the increased neonatal mortality risk, respectively, compared with infants with private insurance” (Kucik, 2014, p. E64); and

WHEREAS, “Uninsured children often receive care late in the development of a health problem or do not receive any care. As a result, they are at higher risk for hospitalization for conditions amendable to timely outpatient care and for missed diagnoses of serious and even life-threatening conditions” (Institute of Medicine, 2002, p. 106); and

WHEREAS, “Regardless of the state of locality, with health insurance, children’s access and use of preventative care (including immunizations), prescription medications, and dental care improves substantially” (Institute of Medicine, 2009, p. 60); therefore be it

RESOLVED, that ANS bring awareness not only to the number of children who are uninsured in the United States but also to the lack of current research surrounding this topic; and be it further

RESOLVED, that IANS hold a breakout session at the next convention, if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the IANS send a copy of this resolution to the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the American Medical Association, the American Nursing Association, the Association of Community Health Nursing Educators, the Association of Public Health Nurses, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Iowa Nursing Association, the National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialist, the National League for Nursing and all others deemed appropriate by the IANS Board of Directors.