

TOPIC: **EXPLORING THE SUITABILITY AND FEASIBILITY OF ACCEPTING LPN/LVN STUDENTS AS NSNA MEMBERS**

SUBMITTED BY: **Nursing Students of Washington State**

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WHEREAS, No organization with the same substantial reach, purpose, and function as NSNA focuses specifically on Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) and Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN) students. The current premiere association relating to LPN/LVNs and students, the National Association of Licensed Practical Nurses (NALPN), only has chapters in 13 states and is not focused on students (NALPN, 2021, p. 1) and

WHEREAS, Such an exploration into NSNA accepting LPN/LVN for student membership hasn't occurred since the 1970s, and the landscape of nursing education and professional collaboration has changed drastically since such investigation; and

WHEREAS, LPN/LVN students and RN students/BSN students are pursuing education related to licenses which fall under the same National Council of State Boards of Nursing and under the same Board of Nursing or organization with the same function in all states, U.S. territories and DC but three, (NCSBN, n.d., p. 1) which demonstrates high proximity to the same professional standards; and

WHEREAS, LPNs/LVNs and RNs are employed in similar healthcare settings with 81.7% and 72.5% practicing direct patient care, similarly experiencing workload increase due to COVID-19 at 62.9% and 61.8%, and feeling burned out every day with 25.3% and 25.8% respectively, demonstrating the significant overlap in professional concerns (Smiley R. A. et. al, 2023, p. 67, p. 34, p. 78, p. 45, p. 80, p. 47); and

WHEREAS, LPN/LVNs and RNs have similarly above-average anticipated job growth at 5% and 6% respectively, demonstrating their similar continued demand for students (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2023, p. 1, p. 1) and

WHEREAS, Exploring such acceptance aligns with Breakthrough to Nursing® (BTN) project, which focuses on increasing the diversity of students in nursing (NSNA, n.d., p. 1), with one significant example of diversity being race, and a demonstrated difference in racial diversity among nurses as 80.0% of Registered Nurses are white while 65.9% LPN/LVN nurses are white (Smiley R. A. et. al, 2023, p. 14, p. 50); and

WHEREAS, In an article of the importance of recognizing the vital contributions of LPN/LVNs, the National League for Nursing (NLN) recommends the nursing education community organize interprofessional and intraprofessional educational opportunities and the NLN explore with NSNA the option of LPN/LVN student inclusion, showcasing support for this exploration from other nursing professional organizations (NLN, 2011, p. 3, p. 4); and

WHEREAS, Current requirements to be an Active NSNA member are "Students enrolled in state approved programs leading to licensure as a registered nurse. ... Registered nurses enrolled in programs leading to a baccalaureate degree with a major in nursing" and to be an Associate NSNA member are "Prenursing students, including registered nurses, enrolled in college or university programs designed as preparation for entrance into a program leading to an associate degree, diploma or baccalaureate degree in nursing." (NSNA, 2018, p. 2), and LPN/LVN students may be suitable for either through determination; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the NSNA Board of Directors form a committee during the 2024-2025 term to explore the feasibility and suitability of accepting LVN/LPN students as NSNA members; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the committee will present a report of their progress at the 2024 MidYear Convention and present their final report at the 2025 Annual Convention; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA send a copy of this resolution to National Association of Licensed Practical Nurses (NALPN), the National League for Nursing (NLN), American Nurses Association (ANA), American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), and the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN), and all others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.