

**TOPIC:** **IN SUPPORT OF INCREASING AWARENESS ABOUT DISPARITIES IN ACCESS TO PASTEURIZED DONOR HUMAN MILK**

**SUBMITTED BY:** **Student Nurses' Association at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

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WHEREAS, human milk is the gold standard for nutritional support of all infants providing necessary nutrients and bioactive factors promoting gastrointestinal, cardiovascular, metabolic, neurodevelopmental, and immune health as well as psychological wellbeing (de Halleux, Pieltain, Senterre, & Rigo, 2017); and

WHEREAS, access to screened and pasteurized donor milk through milk banks can improve neonatal health outcomes and reduce cost, as mothers of preterm infants are at greater risk of inadequate milk production (Perrin et. al, 2016); and

WHEREAS, mothers may be unable to achieve a full milk supply for their neonate despite a diligent pumping regime because of different health conditions (Spatz, 2017); and

WHEREAS, establishment of a donor milk program increases newborn consumption of mother's own milk at discharge, suggesting that donor milk programs increase support for mothers to provide their own milk (Parker, Burnham, Mao, Philipp, & Merewood, 2016); and

WHEREAS, increasing human milk exposure in preterm infants could save an estimated \$27 million in direct care costs, with savings of \$534 per milliliter of milk provided in the first two weeks of life (Gephart & Newnam, 2019); and

WHEREAS, in the United States, less than half of neonatal intensive care units (NICUs) use pasteurized donor milk (Perrin et. al, 2016); and

WHEREAS, lack of awareness of donor human milk (DHM) among healthcare providers may be limiting its use in NICUs (Kair et al., 2019); and

WHEREAS, having public insurance and a primary language other than English is associated with lower DHM usage (Kair et al., 2019); and

WHEREAS, extremely low birth weight infants born to black mothers are 20% less likely to receive human milk than non-black infants (Gephart & Newnam, 2019); and

WHEREAS, hispanic women are 72% less likely to use DHM than white women (Kair et al., 2019); and therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) support increased awareness about disparities in access to pasteurized donor human milk; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage its constituents to hold chapter meetings or forums on pasteurized human donor milk and the associated disparities in access, if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA publish an article in *Imprint* about this topic, if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED,

that the NSNA send a copy of this resolution to the American Academy of Nursing, American Nurses Association, Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, American Association of Colleges of Nursing, National League for Nursing, United States Department of Health and Human Services, National Association of Neonatal Nurses, and all others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.