RESOLUTION

Recognizing the important role [city and/or state]’s forensic nurses play in supporting survivors of violence and making our community safer from violence;

Whereas forensic nurses empower patients who are victims of violence to seek healing and justice as they choose;

Whereas violence is a persistent health care issue, and forensic nurses are the bridge between the medical and legal needs of patients;

Whereas more than two million people are treated for violence-related injuries each year in the

United States, including more than [city and/or state number] in [city and/or state].

Whereas patients who experience violence sustain physical injuries, as well as acute and chronic physical and mental health conditions, including sexually transmitted infections, HIV, substance misuse, anxiety, depression, and suicidal ideation;

Whereas the health consequences of violence cost hospitals in the United States approximately $18.2 billion annually;

Whereas forensic nurses are essential to [city and/or state]’s health care because they provide

trauma-informed nursing care that focuses on patient populations affected by violence and trauma, including victims and perpetrators of violent crimes, across the lifespan and in diverse practice settings;

Whereas the International Association of Forensic Nursing (IAFN) was established in 1992,

represents the largest global network of forensic nurses and remains the world’s leading voice in

forensic nursing practice, education and research; and the [state] Chapter of IAFN supports and

represents [state] forensic nurses;

Whereas forensic nursing has been formally recognized as a specialty practice area since 1995;

Whereas forensic nurses work independently, yet collaboratively, within health care and multidisciplinary community systems ensuring the provision of care extends from the clinical setting to the courtroom;

Whereas forensic nursing encompasses caring for diverse patient populations, including

patients who have experienced sexual assault or abuse, intimate or interpersonal violence, elder and child maltreatment, human trafficking and accidental as well as nonaccidental trauma, in roles that include sexual assault nurse examiner, forensic nurse examiner, death investigator, correctional nurse, forensic psychiatric nurse, legal nurse consultant, forensic geriatric specialist, nurse attorney, forensic nursing educators, and forensic clinical nurse specialists;

Whereas forensic nurses foster an understanding of the health consequences, effective

interventions, and prevention of violence and trauma in individuals, families, and communities;

Whereas forensic nurses work in partnership with multidisciplinary stakeholders, including Tribal organizations, advocacy, law enforcement, military branches, and legal counsel;

Now, therefore, be it Resolved,

That the [governing entity] acknowledges that forensic nursing is more relevant now than ever

before, as this specialty practice evolves to address the gaps in health care related to effective

violence intervention, reduction of long-term health consequences, and prevention; honors forensic nurses for their commitment to providing evidence-based, compassionate, trauma-informed care encompassing the entire scope of nursing practice; reaffirms its commitment to working alongside forensic nurses to further their contributions to

improve health outcomes for patients experiencing violence; and declares [today, November 7, 2025, Forensic Nurses Day *o*r November 3-9, 2025 Forensic Nurses Week] in [city/state].