H. R. 485

To establish the position of National Nurse for Public Health, to be filled by the same individual serving as the Chief Nurse Officer of the Public Health Service.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 4, 2013

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (for herself, Mr. KING of New York, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. MORAN, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. HONDA, Mr. HOLT, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. SCHRADER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To establish the position of National Nurse for Public Health, to be filled by the same individual serving as the Chief Nurse Officer of the Public Health Service.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “National Nurse Act of 2013”.
SEC. 2. NATIONAL NURSE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH.

Title XVII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300u et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 1711. NATIONAL NURSE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH.

“(a) Establishment.—

“(1) In general.—There is established within the Office of the Surgeon General a full-time position, to be filled by a registered nurse to be known as the National Nurse for Public Health.

“(2) Appointment.—

“(A) In general.—Except for the initial appointment of the National Nurse for Public Health under subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall appoint the National Nurse for Public Health in accordance with Commissioned Corps Instruction CC23.4.6 (relating to Chief Professional Officer Nominations), as in effect on February 13, 2008.

“(B) Initial appointment.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall appoint the individual serving as the Chief Nurse Officer of the Public Health Service as the first National Nurse for Public Health.
“(3) Relation to Position of Chief Nurse Officer.—The individual serving as the National Nurse for Public Health shall also serve as the Chief Nurse Officer of the Public Health Service.

“(b) Rank and Grade.—The National Nurse for Public Health shall have the same rank and grade as the Deputy Surgeon General of the Public Health Service.

“(c) Duties.—The National Nurse for Public Health shall carry out the following:

“(1) Provide leadership and coordination of Public Health Service nursing professional affairs for the Office of the Surgeon General and other agencies of the Public Health Service, including providing representation for the Government of the United States at the Global Forum for Government Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officers and serving as a member of the Federal Nursing Service Council.

“(2) Represent the Surgeon General and the agencies of Public Health Service in communications with groups and societies concerned with nursing issues at the local, State, national, and international levels.

“(3) Provide guidance and advice to the Surgeon General and the Nurse Professional Advisory Committee on matters such as standards, recruit-
ment, retention, readiness, and career development
of nurses employed by and contracted with agencies
of the Public Health Service.

“(4) Conduct media campaigns and make per-
sonal appearances for purposes of paragraphs (5)
through (7).

“(5) Provide guidance and leadership for activi-
ties to promote the public health, including encour-
aging nurses and other health professionals to be
volunteers and developing projects that educate the
public about and engage the public in prevention
practices to achieve better health.

“(6) Provide guidance and leadership to encour-
age nurses to engage in furthering their education in
order to conduct nursing research, increase the
awareness of evidence-based practice, and educate
future nurses.

“(7) Provide guidance and leadership for activi-
ties that will increase public safety and emergency
preparedness.

“(d) National Health Priorities—Healthy
People 2020.—

“(1) In general.—The National Nurse for
Public Health, in cooperation with the Surgeon Gen-
eral of the Public Health Service, heads of the agen-
cies of the Public Health Service, States, and organizations that represent health professionals, shall participate in the identification of national health priorities.

“(2) ADDRESSING NATIONAL HEALTH PRIORITIES.—The National Nurse for Public Health, in addressing national health priorities, shall encourage volunteerism of nurses and other individuals, and strengthen the relationship between Government agencies and health-related national organizations.

“(3) COMMUNITY-BASED PROJECTS.—

“(A) IMPLEMENTATION.—In addressing national health priorities, the National Nurse for Public Health shall—

“(i) provide guidance and coordination on recommended activities to organizations;

“(ii) acknowledge successful programs and encourage their replication;

“(iii) promote the dissemination of evidence-based practice in educating the public on health promotion and disease prevention activities;

“(iv) encourage practicing nurses and other health professionals, including retired
health professionals and students enrolled
in health professional programs, to partici-
pate in health promotion activities and rep-
llicate successful health promotion activi-
ties; and

“(v) monitor activities being con-
ducted through the collection and evalua-
tion of data to determine if national health
priorities are being addressed.

“(B) MEDIA CAMPAIGNS.—The National
Nurse for Public Health shall ensure that
media campaigns conducted under subsection
(c)(4) include media campaigns regarding the
national health priorities.

“(C) EVALUATIONS.—The National Nurse
for Public Health shall, directly or through
awards of grants or contracts, evaluate the ac-
tivities encouraged by the National Nurse for
Public Health and conducted by community-
based, nonprofit organizations to determine the
extent to which such activities have succeeded
in carrying out national health priorities.

“(D) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—
The National Nurse for Public Health shall dis-
seminate information to governmental agencies,
schools, and community-based, nonprofit organizations interested in health promotion and improving public health through community action.”.