S. 1475

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 SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 1, 2013

Mr. MERKLEY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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 Representa-
tives 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.—An individual designated as the Chief Nurse Officer of the Public Health Service under section 205 shall be designated by the Secretary as the National Nurse for Public Health. Such Chief Nurse Office shall serve full-time within the Office of the Surgeon General.

“(2) Designation.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall designate the individual serving as the Chief Nurse Officer of the Public Health Service on such date as the first National Nurse for Public Health. Subsequent designations shall occur in accordance with Commissioned Corps Instruction CC23.4.6 (relating to Chief Professional Officer Nominations), as in effect on February 13, 2008.

“(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 pro-
viding 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, recruitment, retention, readiness, and career development of nurses employed by and contracted with agencies of the Public Health Service.

“(4) Conduct outreach and education for purposes of paragraphs (5) through (7).

“(5) Provide guidance and leadership for activities to promote the public health, including encouraging 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 encourage 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 organ-
izations that represent health professionals, shall
participate in the identification of national health
priorities.

“(2) ADDRESSING NATIONAL HEALTH PRIOR-
ITIES.—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 participate in health promotion activities and replicate successful health promotion activities; and

“(v) monitor activities being conducted through the collection and evaluation of data to determine if national health priorities are being addressed.

“(B) OUTREACH AND EDUCATION.—The National Nurse for Public Health shall ensure that outreach and education conducted under subsection (c)(4) include diverse approaches, in-
cluding social media campaigns, to address na-
tional health priorities.

“(C) EVALUATIONS.—The National Nurse
for Public Health shall participate in evaluating
the national, regional, and community-based 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 orga-
nizations interested in health promotion and
improving public health through community ac-
tion.”.