To amend title VIII of the Public Health Service Act to extend advanced education nursing grants to support clinical nurse specialist programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 14, 2016

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

A BILL

To amend title VIII of the Public Health Service Act to extend advanced education nursing grants to support clinical nurse specialist programs, and for other purposes.

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 “Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2016”.

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SEC. 2. SUPPORTING CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALISTS.

(a) Advanced Education Nursing Grants.—Section 811 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 296j) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking “R.N./Master’s” and inserting “R.N./graduate”; and

(B) by inserting “clinical nurse leaders,” before “or public health nurses”;

(2) by redesignating subsections (f) and (g) as subsections (g) and (h), respectively; and

(3) by inserting after subsection (e) the following new subsection:

“(f) Authorized Clinical Nurse Specialist Programs.—Clinical nurse specialist programs eligible for support under this section are education programs that—

“(1) provide registered nurses with full-time clinical nurse specialist education; and

“(2) have as their objective the education of clinical nurse specialists who will upon completion of such a program be qualified to effectively provide care through the wellness and illness continuum to inpatients and outpatients experiencing acute and chronic illness.”.
(b) Definition of Nurse-Managed Clinic.—Section 801 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 296) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(18) Nurse-managed health clinic.—The term ‘nurse-managed health clinic’ means a nurse-practice arrangement, managed by advanced practice nurses, that provides primary care or wellness services to underserved or vulnerable populations and that is associated with a school, college, university or department of nursing, federally qualified health center, or independent nonprofit health or social services agency.”.

(c) National Advisory Council on Nurse Education and Practice.—Section 851(b)(1)(A)(iv) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 297t) is amended by striking “and nurse anesthetists” and inserting “nurse anesthetists, and clinical nurse specialists”.

SEC. 3. REAUTHORIZATION OF FUNDING FOR NURSING PROGRAMS.

(a) In General.—Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 296 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in subsection (i)(1) of section 846 (42 U.S.C. 297n; loan repayment and scholarship programs), by striking “2007” and inserting “2021”;
(2) in subsection (f) of section 846A (42 U.S.C. 297n–1; nurse faculty loan program), by striking “2014” and inserting “2021”;

(3) in subsection (e) of section 865 (42 U.S.C. 298; comprehensive geriatric education), by striking “2014” and inserting “2021”; and

(4) in section 871 (42 U.S.C. 298d; funding for carrying out parts B, C, and section 831)—

(A) by striking “2016” and inserting “2021”; and

(B) by striking “B, C, and D” and inserting “B and C and section 831”.

(b) Nurse Education, Practice, Quality, and Retention Grants.—Section 831 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 296p) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking “AND QUALITY” and inserting “QUALITY, AND RETENTION”;

(2) in subsection (e)(1)—

(A) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

“(A) to promote career advancement for—

“(i) for nursing personnel in a variety of training settings, cross-training or specialty training among diverse population
groups, and the advancement of individuals including to become professional nurses, advanced education nurses, licensed practical nurses, certified nurse assistants, and home health aides; and

“(ii) individuals including licensed practical nurses, licensed vocational nurses, certified nurse assistants, home health aides, diploma degree or associate degree nurses, to become baccalaureate prepared registered nurses or advanced education nurses in order to meet the needs of the registered nurse workforce;”;

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) developing and implementing internships and residency programs in collaboration with an accredited school of nursing, as defined by section 801(2), to encourage mentoring and the development of specialties.”;

(3) in subsection (g)—

(A) by striking “,” and inserting “,”;

(B) by striking “or”; and
(C) by inserting “, or a nurse-managed health clinic” before the period; and

(4) by striking subsection (h).