

Calendar No. 527

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION**S. 1874**

To amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain nursing workforce development programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 22, 2025

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. COONS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. KELLY, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. LUJÁN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. OSSOFF, and Mr. GALLEG0) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

JULY 28, 2026

Reported by Mr. CASSIDY, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italie*]

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain nursing workforce development programs, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Title VIII Nursing
3 Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2025”.

4 **SEC. 2. ADVANCED NURSING EDUCATION GRANTS.**

5 Section 811 of the Public Health Service Act (42
6 U.S.C. 296j) is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (a)(2), by striking “pro-
8 grams.” and inserting the following: “programs, in-
9 cluding individuals enrolled in—

10 “(A) authorized nurse practitioner pro-
11 grams described in subsection (e);

12 “(B) authorized nurse-midwifery programs
13 described in subsection (d);

14 “(C) authorized nurse anesthesia programs
15 described in subsection (e); and

16 “(D) authorized clinical nurse specialist
17 programs described in subsection (f).”;

18 (2) in subsection (d)—

19 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “mid-
20 wives” and inserting “nurse-midwives”; and

21 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “Amer-
22 ican College of Nurse-Midwives”; and

23 (3) in subsection (h)(1)(A), by striking “fees”
24 and inserting “fees, including costs for clinical edu-
25 cation and preceptors.”.

1 **SEC. 3. STRENGTHENING CAPACITY FOR NURSE EDU-**
 2 **CATION AND PRACTICE.**

3 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Part D of title VIII of the Public
 4 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 296p et seq.) is amended—

5 (1) in the part heading, by striking “**BASIC**”;
 6 and

7 (2) in section 831 (42 U.S.C. 296p)—

8 (A) in subsection (a)—

9 (i) in paragraph (1), by striking “or”
 10 after the semicolon;

11 (ii) in paragraph (2), by striking
 12 “methodologies.” and inserting “meth-
 13 odologies, audiovisual or other equipment,
 14 simulation and augmented reality re-
 15 sources, telehealth technologies, and virtual
 16 and physical laboratories; or”; and

17 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
 18 lowing:

19 “(3) increasing the number of faculty and stu-
 20 dents at schools of nursing in order to address nurs-
 21 ing workforce shortages.”; and

22 (B) in subsection (b)—

23 (i) in paragraph (2), by striking “and
 24 survivors of domestic violence” and insert-
 25 ing “survivors of domestic violence, and
 26 survivors of sexual assault”;

1 (ii) in paragraph (3), by striking “or”
 2 after the semicolon;

3 (iii) in paragraph (4), by striking the
 4 period and inserting “; or”; and

5 (iv) by adding at the end the fol-
 6 lowing:

7 “(5) partnering with a health care facility,
 8 nurse-managed health clinic, community health cen-
 9 ter, or other facility that provides health care in
 10 order to provide education opportunities for the pur-
 11 pose of establishing or expanding clinical edu-
 12 cation.”.

13 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section
 14 806(f)(2)(C) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.
 15 296e(f)(2)(C)) is amended by striking “basic”.

16 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

17 Section 871 of the Public Health Service Act (42
 18 U.S.C. 298d) is amended—

19 (1) in subsection (a), by striking
 20 “\$137,837,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through
 21 2025” and inserting “\$184,337,000 for each of fis-
 22 cal years 2026 through 2030”; and

23 (2) in subsection (b), by striking
 24 “\$117,135,000 for each of the fiscal years 2021

1 through 2025” and inserting “\$121,135,000 for
 2 each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030”.

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 *This Act may be cited as the “Title VIII Nursing*
 5 *Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2026”.*

6 **SEC. 2. ADVANCED NURSING EDUCATION GRANTS.**

7 *Section 811 of the Public Health Service Act (42*
 8 *U.S.C. 296j) is amended—*

9 *(1) in subsection (a)(2), by striking “programs.”*
 10 *and inserting the following: “programs, including in-*
 11 *dividuals enrolled in—*

12 *“(A) authorized nurse practitioner pro-*
 13 *grams described in subsection (c);*

14 *“(B) authorized nurse-midwifery programs*
 15 *described in subsection (d);*

16 *“(C) authorized nurse anesthesia programs*
 17 *described in subsection (e); and*

18 *“(D) authorized clinical nurse specialist*
 19 *programs described in subsection (f).”;*

20 *(2) in subsection (d)—*

21 *(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “mid-*
 22 *wives” and inserting “nurse-midwives”; and*

23 *(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “Amer-*
 24 *ican College of Nurse-Midwives”; and*

1 (3) in subsection (h)(1)(A), by striking “fees”
 2 and inserting “fees, including costs for clinical edu-
 3 cation and preceptors,”.

4 **SEC. 3. STRENGTHENING CAPACITY FOR NURSE EDU-**
 5 **CATION AND PRACTICE.**

6 (a) *IN GENERAL*.—Part D of title VIII of the Public
 7 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 296p et seq.) is amended—

8 (1) in the part heading, by striking “**BASIC**”;
 9 and

10 (2) in section 831 (42 U.S.C. 296p)—

11 (A) in subsection (a)—

12 (i) in paragraph (1), by striking “or”
 13 after the semicolon;

14 (ii) in paragraph (2), by striking
 15 “methodologies.” and inserting “methodolo-
 16 gies, audiovisual or other equipment, sim-
 17 ulation and augmented reality resources,
 18 telehealth technologies, and virtual and
 19 physical laboratories; or”; and

20 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
 21 lowing:

22 “(3) increasing the number of faculty and stu-
 23 dents at schools of nursing in order to address nurs-
 24 ing workforce shortages.”; and

25 (B) in subsection (b)—

1 (i) in paragraph (2), by striking “and
2 survivors of domestic violence” and insert-
3 ing “survivors of domestic violence, and
4 survivors of sexual assault”;

5 (ii) in paragraph (3), by striking “or”
6 after the semicolon;

7 (iii) in paragraph (4), by striking the
8 period and inserting “; or”; and

9 (iv) by adding at the end the following:
10 “(5) partnering with a health care facility,
11 nurse-managed health clinic, community health cen-
12 ter, or other facility that provides health care in order
13 to provide education opportunities for the purpose of
14 establishing or expanding clinical education.”.

15 (b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Section 806(f)(2)(C)
16 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 296e(f)(2)(C))
17 is amended by striking “basic”.

18 **SEC. 4. NURSE FACULTY DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.**

19 Section 846A of the Public Health Service Act (42
20 U.S.C. 297n–1) is amended—

21 (1) by amending subsection (a) to read as fol-
22 lows:

23 “(a) **IN GENERAL.**—To increase the number of quali-
24 fied nursing faculty, the Secretary may—

1 “(1) enter into an agreement with any accredited
2 school of nursing for the establishment and operation
3 of a student loan fund in accordance with subsection
4 (b); and

5 “(2) award nurse faculty grants in accordance
6 with subsection (c).”;

7 (2) in subsection (b)—

8 (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (A)
9 through (D) of paragraph (2) as clauses (i)
10 through (iv), respectively, and adjusting the
11 margins accordingly;

12 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (1)
13 through (5) as subparagraphs (A) through (E),
14 respectively, and adjusting the margins accord-
15 ingly;

16 (C) in subparagraph (C), as so redesign-
17 ated, by striking “subsection (c)” and inserting
18 “paragraph (2)”; and

19 (D) by striking “(b) AGREEMENTS—Each
20 agreement entered into under subsection (a)
21 shall—” and inserting the following:

22 “(b) SCHOOL OF NURSING STUDENT LOAN FUND.—

23 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each agreement entered into
24 under subsection (a)(1) shall—”;

25 (3) in subsection (c)—

1 (A) by striking “subsection (a)” each place
2 it appears and inserting “subsection (a)(1)”;

3 (B) in paragraph (3), by redesignating sub-
4 paragraphs (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii),
5 respectively, and adjusting the margins accord-
6 ingly;

7 (C) in paragraph (6), by redesignating sub-
8 paragraphs (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii),
9 respectively, and adjusting the margins accord-
10 ingly;

11 (D) by redesignating paragraphs (1)
12 through (6) as subparagraphs (A) through (F),
13 respectively, and adjusting the margins accord-
14 ingly; and

15 (E) in subparagraph (F)(ii), as so redesign-
16 ated, by striking “subsection (e)” and inserting
17 “paragraph (4)”;

18 (4) in subsection (e), by striking “subsection
19 (c)(6)(B)” and inserting “paragraph (2)(F)(ii)”;

20 (5) by redesignating subsections (c) through (e)
21 as paragraphs (2) through (4), respectively, and ad-
22 justing the margins accordingly; and

23 (6) by adding at the end the following:

24 “(c) NURSE FACULTY DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.—

1 “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Secretary shall establish*
 2 *and carry out a demonstration program described in*
 3 *subsection (a)(2) under which eligible schools of nurs-*
 4 *ing receive a grant for purposes of supplementing the*
 5 *salaries of eligible nursing faculty members to en-*
 6 *hance recruitment and retention of nursing faculty*
 7 *members.*

8 “(2) *ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.*—*To be eligible to re-*
 9 *ceive a grant under this subsection, an entity shall—*

10 “(A) *be an accredited school of nursing; and*

11 “(B) *submit an application to the Sec-*
 12 *retary, at such time, in such manner, and con-*
 13 *taining such information as the Secretary may*
 14 *require, including—*

15 “(i)(I) *to the extent such information*
 16 *is available to the school of nursing, the sal-*
 17 *ary history of nursing faculty at such school*
 18 *who previously were nurses in clinical prac-*
 19 *tice, for the most recent 3-year period end-*
 20 *ing on the date of application, adjusted for*
 21 *inflation as appropriate and broken down*
 22 *by credentials, experience, and levels of edu-*
 23 *cation of such nurses; or*

24 “(II) *if the information described in*
 25 *subclause (I) is not available, information*

1 *on the average local salary of nurses in*
2 *clinical practice, adjusted for inflation as*
3 *appropriate and broken down by creden-*
4 *tials, experience, and levels of education of*
5 *the individual nurses, in accordance with*
6 *such requirements as the Secretary may*
7 *specify;*

8 “(ii) *an attestation of the average*
9 *nursing faculty salary at the school of nurs-*
10 *ing during the most recent 3-year period*
11 *prior to the date of application, adjusted for*
12 *inflation, as appropriate, broken down by*
13 *credentials, experience, and levels of edu-*
14 *cation of such faculty members;*

15 “(iii) *the number of nursing faculty*
16 *member vacancies at the entity at the time*
17 *of application, and the entity’s projection of*
18 *such vacancies over the ensuing 5-year pe-*
19 *riod; and*

20 “(iv) *a description of the entity’s plans*
21 *to identify funding sources to sustainably*
22 *continue, after the 3-year grant period, the*
23 *salary available to the eligible nursing fac-*
24 *ulty member pursuant to the program*
25 *under this subsection during such grant*

1 *program and to retain eligible nursing fac-*
 2 *ulty members after the end of the grant pe-*
 3 *riod.*

4 “(3) *AWARDS.—A grant awarded under this sub-*
 5 *section, with respect to supporting eligible nursing*
 6 *faculty members, shall—*

7 “(A) *be awarded to the school of nursing to*
 8 *supplement the salaries of eligible faculty mem-*
 9 *bers at the school of nursing, annually, for up to*
 10 *a 3-year period, in an amount equal to, for each*
 11 *eligible nursing faculty member at the eligible*
 12 *entity during the grant period, the difference be-*
 13 *tween—*

14 “(i) *the average salary of nurses in*
 15 *clinical practice, as submitted under sub-*
 16 *clause (I) or (II) of paragraph (2)(B)(i);*
 17 *and*

18 “(ii) *the greater of—*

19 “(I) *the salary for the eligible*
 20 *nursing faculty member at the school of*
 21 *nursing; or*

22 “(II) *the average nursing faculty*
 23 *salary, as submitted under paragraph*
 24 *(2)(B)(ii) for faculty members with the*

1 *same or similar credentials and level of*
 2 *education;*

3 “(B) *notwithstanding section 803(a), be*
 4 *used in its entirety to supplement the eligible*
 5 *faculty member’s salary; and*

6 “(C) *be conditioned upon the school of nurs-*
 7 *ing maintaining, for each year in which the*
 8 *award is made as described in subparagraph*
 9 *(A), a salary for such faculty member at a level*
 10 *that is not less than the greater of the amount*
 11 *under subclause (I) or (II) of subparagraph*
 12 *(A)(ii).*

13 “(4) *PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this*
 14 *subsection, the Secretary shall—*

15 “(A) *ensure the equitable geographic dis-*
 16 *tribution of awards;*

17 “(B) *give priority to applications from*
 18 *schools of nursing that demonstrate—*

19 “(i) *the greatest need for such grant,*
 20 *which may be based upon the financial cir-*
 21 *cumstances of the school of nursing, the*
 22 *number of eligible nurse faculty members,*
 23 *the planned number of students to be*
 24 *trained or admitted off a wait list; or*

1 “(ii) training or partnerships to serve
 2 vulnerable patient populations, such as
 3 through the location or activity of a school
 4 in a health professional shortage area (as
 5 defined in section 332); and

6 “(C) ensure that not less than 20 percent of
 7 the total amount awarded is awarded to eligible
 8 entities located in States with populations under
 9 1,500,000.

10 “(5) *RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.*—Nothing in this
 11 subsection precludes a school of nursing or an eligible
 12 nursing faculty member receiving an award under
 13 this section from obtaining or receiving any other
 14 form of Federal support or funding.

15 “(6) *REPORT.*—Not later than 3 years after the
 16 date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary
 17 shall submit to the Committee on Finance and the
 18 Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pen-
 19 sions of the Senate and the Committee on Ways and
 20 Means and the Committee on Energy and Commerce
 21 of the House of Representatives, a report that evalu-
 22 ates the program established under this subsection, in-
 23 cluding—

24 “(A) the impact of such program on recruit-
 25 ment and retention rates of nursing faculty, as

1 *available, and specifically for each faculty mem-*
 2 *ber participating in the program; and*

3 *“(B) recommendations and considerations*
 4 *for Congress on continuing the program under*
 5 *this subsection.*

6 *“(7) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:*

7 *“(A) ELIGIBLE NURSING FACULTY MEM-*
 8 *BER.—The term ‘eligible nursing faculty mem-*
 9 *ber’ means a nursing faculty member who—*

10 *“(i) was hired by a school of nursing*
 11 *within the 2-year period preceding the sub-*
 12 *mission of an application under paragraph*
 13 *(2), or a prospective nursing faculty mem-*
 14 *ber;*

15 *“(ii) is currently employed at the*
 16 *school of nursing and who demonstrates the*
 17 *need for such support;*

18 *“(iii) previously worked as a nurse in*
 19 *clinical practice or as a nurse faculty mem-*
 20 *ber at another school of nursing; or*

21 *“(iv) may work on a part-time basis*
 22 *as a nursing faculty member, for whom*
 23 *such award amounts described in para-*
 24 *graph (3) shall be prorated relative to the*

1 *amount of time participating in part-time*
 2 *teaching.*

3 “(B) *INFLATION.*—*The term ‘inflation’*
 4 *means the Consumer Price Index for all urban*
 5 *consumers (all items; U.S. city average).*

6 “(8) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.*—*To*
 7 *carry out this subsection, there is authorized to be ap-*
 8 *propriated \$15,000,000 for the period of fiscal years*
 9 *2027 through 2031.*

10 “(9) *SUNSET.*—*The authority of the Secretary to*
 11 *award grants under this section shall terminate on*
 12 *September 30, 2031. Any grant awarded before such*
 13 *date shall continue in accordance with the terms of*
 14 *the grant, but no grant may be awarded under this*
 15 *subsection after such date.”.*

16 ***SEC. 5. STATE AND REGIONAL NURSING WORKFORCE CEN-***
 17 ***TER DATA COLLECTION PILOT PROGRAM.***

18 “(a) *IN GENERAL.*—*Title VIII of the Public Health*
 19 *Service Act (42 U.S.C. 296 et seq.) is amended by striking*
 20 ***“PART G—PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS”*** *and*
 21 *inserting the following:*

1 **“PART G—NURSING WORKFORCE CENTERS**

2 **“SEC. 861. STATE AND REGIONAL NURSING WORKFORCE**
 3 **CENTER DATA COLLECTION PILOT PROGRAM.**

4 “(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary may carry out a
 5 3-year pilot program under which the Secretary awards
 6 grants, or enters into contracts with, eligible entities to es-
 7 tablish new or enhance existing State- and regional based
 8 nursing workforce centers, evaluate the impact of State-and
 9 regional based nursing workforce centers on outcomes, and
 10 assess the feasibility of nursing workforce public-private
 11 partnerships. The Secretary shall begin implementation of
 12 such pilot program not later than 1 year after the date of
 13 enactment of the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthoriza-
 14 tion Act of 2026.

15 “(b) *AWARD TERMS.*—

16 “(1) *TERM.*—The term of a grant or contract
 17 awarded under the pilot program under subsection
 18 (a) shall be 3 years.

19 “(2) *MATCHING REQUIREMENT.*—As a condition
 20 on receipt of a grant or contract under the pilot pro-
 21 gram under subsection (a), the Secretary shall require
 22 the applicant to agree, with respect to costs to be in-
 23 curred by the applicant in carrying out the activities
 24 funded through the grant or contract, to make avail-
 25 able non-Federal contributions (in cash or in kind)
 26 toward such costs in an amount that is equal to not

1 *less than \$1 for each \$4 of Federal funds provided*
 2 *through the grant or contract. Such contributions*
 3 *may be made directly or through donations from pub-*
 4 *lic or private entities.*

5 *“(c) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a grant or*
 6 *contract under this section, an entity shall be—*

7 *“(1) a State agency;*

8 *“(2) a State board of nursing;*

9 *“(3) a nonprofit; or*

10 *“(4) a school of nursing.*

11 *“(d) EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION.—In awarding grants*
 12 *or contracts under this section, the Secretary shall ensure,*
 13 *to the greatest extent possible, that such grants and con-*
 14 *tracts are equitably distributed among the geographical re-*
 15 *gions of the United States.*

16 *“(e) PRIORITY.—In selecting the eligible entity to be*
 17 *awarded a grant or contract under this section for a nurs-*
 18 *ing workforce center in a particular State, the Secretary*
 19 *shall give priority to eligible entities that—*

20 *“(1) propose to provide statewide services;*

21 *“(2) have expertise in the State’s nursing work-*
 22 *force issues;*

23 *“(3) have a history of convening entities to ad-*
 24 *dress nursing workforce issues; and*

1 “(4) have partnerships with entities that tradi-
2 tionally educate or employ the State’s nurses.

3 “(f) *USE OF FUNDS.*—A recipient of a grant or con-
4 tract under this section may use such award for purposes
5 of—

6 “(1) collecting, analyzing, and reporting data re-
7 garding nursing workforce training programs under
8 this Act to the National Center for Health Workforce
9 Analysis and to the public; and

10 “(2) providing technical assistance to local and
11 regional entities on the collection, analysis, and re-
12 porting of data and making recommendations to im-
13 prove nursing workforce capacity.

14 “(g) *REPORTS.*—Not later than 2 years after the date
15 on which the first grant or contract is awarded under the
16 pilot program under subsection (a), and annually there-
17 after, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on
18 the grants and contracts awarded under such pilot program
19 during the year covered by the report. Each such report
20 shall include—

21 “(1) a description of initiatives to study the
22 unique characteristics of State nursing workforces,
23 and efforts to increase the number of new nurses, re-
24 cruit nurses to the nursing profession, and retain
25 nurses in the workplace;

1 “(2) *impact data on nurses served by nursing*
2 *workforce centers, including demographic information*
3 *of the individuals served, the number of such individ-*
4 *uals, and the types of services provided;*

5 “(3) *the effectiveness of establishing formal pub-*
6 *lic-private relationships for purposes of under-*
7 *standing the national nursing workforce through im-*
8 *proved data collection and standardization;*

9 “(4) *data on continuous evaluation and quality*
10 *improvement, and other relevant data as determined*
11 *by the Secretary; and*

12 “(5) *the Secretary’s recommendations and best*
13 *practices for—*

14 “(A) *reducing shortages among different*
15 *nursing specialties;*

16 “(B) *reducing shortages in rural and un-*
17 *derserved areas;*

18 “(C) *improving geographical distribution of*
19 *the nursing workforce; and*

20 “(D) *reducing shortages among different*
21 *types of nursing employers.*

22 “(h) *DATA COLLECTION.—The recipient of a grant or*
23 *contract under this section shall provide the Secretary with*
24 *such information (including data and assurances), at such*

1 *time, and in such manner as the Secretary may require*
 2 *in order to prepare the report under subsection (g).*

3 “(i) *FUNDING.*—

4 “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—From the amounts appro-
 5 priated to carry out this title, the Secretary may use
 6 up to \$1,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through
 7 2029 for purposes of carrying out this section.

8 “(2) *LIMITATION.*—Paragraph (1) shall not
 9 apply for a fiscal year unless the amount made avail-
 10 able to carry out parts B, C, and D for such fiscal
 11 year exceeds the amount appropriated to carry out
 12 such parts for fiscal year 2026.”.

13 (b) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.*—Section
 14 871(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 298d(a))
 15 is amended by striking “and D” and inserting “D, and
 16 G”.

17 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

18 Section 871 of the Public Health Service Act (42
 19 U.S.C. 298d), as amended by section 5(b), is further amend-
 20 ed—

21 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “\$137,837,000
 22 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025” and in-
 23 serting “\$184,337,000 for each of fiscal years 2027
 24 through 2031”; and

1 (2) *in subsection (b), by striking “\$117,135,000*
2 *for each of the fiscal years 2021 through 2025” and*
3 *inserting “\$121,135,000 for each of fiscal years 2027*
4 *through 2031”.*

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2^D Session

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To amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain nursing workforce development programs, and for other purposes.

JULY 28, 2026

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