

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4903

To amend the Public Health Service Act to establish an Office of the National Nurse.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 8, 2006

Mrs. CAPPS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to establish an Office of the National Nurse.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “National Nurse Act
5 of 2006”.

1 **SEC. 2. AMENDING PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ACT WITH RE-**
2 **SPECT TO THE OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL**
3 **NURSE.**

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

7 **“SEC. 1711. OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL NURSE.**

8 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE.—There is estab-
9 lished within the Office of Public Health and Science an
10 office to be known as the Office of the National Nurse,
11 which shall be headed by an individual serving in a posi-
12 tion to be known as the National Nurse. The Secretary
13 shall appoint a registered nurse to serve in such position.
14 The Secretary shall carry out this section acting through
15 the National Nurse.

16 “(b) DUTIES.—The National Nurse shall—

17 “(1) carry out activities to encourage individ-
18 uals to enter the nursing profession, including pro-
19 viding education on the distinct role of nurses in the
20 health professions and examining nursing issues that
21 would increase public safety, such as issues relating
22 to staff levels, working conditions, and patient input;

23 “(2) carry out activities to encourage nurses to
24 become educators in schools of nursing;

25 “(3) carry out activities to promote the public
26 health, including encouraging nurses to be volun-

1 teers to projects that educate the public on achieving
2 better health; and

3 “(4) conduct media campaigns and make per-
4 sonal appearances for purposes of paragraphs (1)
5 through (3).

6 “(c) ANNUAL PRIORITIES ON ACHIEVING BETTER
7 HEALTH.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each fiscal year the Na-
9 tional Nurse shall designate four methods of achiev-
10 ing better health that will be given priority by the
11 National Nurse in carrying out subsection (b)(3)
12 (referred to in this subsection as ‘annual health pri-
13 orities’). The National Nurse shall designate such
14 priorities in consultation with the Surgeon General
15 of the Public Health Service, the heads of the agen-
16 cies of such Service, the States, and organizations
17 that represent health professionals.

18 “(2) COMMUNITY-BASED PROJECTS.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out sub-
20 section (b)(3), the National Nurse shall make
21 grants to nonprofit private entities to carry out
22 projects for the purpose of educating the public
23 on the annual health priorities, including out-
24 reach activities in settings such as schools, sen-
25 ior centers, and libraries.

1 “(B) STATE COORDINATORS; NURSE
2 TEAMS.—In making grants under subparagraph
3 (A), the National Nurse shall provide for the
4 following with respect to a State and particular
5 communities in which activities under the grant
6 will be carried out:

7 “(i) The designation of an individual
8 to coordinate such activities within the
9 State (referred to in this paragraph as the
10 ‘State coordinator’).

11 “(ii) Under the guidance of the State
12 coordinator, the formation of teams of
13 nurses who volunteer to provide the edu-
14 cation referred to subparagraph (A), which
15 teams are diverse and representative in
16 terms of educational level in the field of
17 nursing and in terms of racial and ethnic
18 minority groups.

19 “(iii) The collection in such commu-
20 nities, in accordance with criteria of the
21 National Nurse, of data relating to the an-
22 nual health priorities.

23 “(C) MEDIA CAMPAIGNS.—The National
24 Nurse shall ensure that media campaigns under

1 subsection (b)(4) include media campaigns re-
2 garding the annual health priorities.

3 “(D) EVALUATIONS.—The National Nurse
4 shall, directly or through awards of grants or
5 contracts, evaluate projects under subparagraph
6 (A) to determine the extent to which the
7 projects have been successful in carrying out
8 the purpose described in such subparagraph.

9 “(E) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—
10 The National Nurse shall—

11 “(i) disseminate information obtained
12 in the evaluations under subparagraph
13 (D); and

14 “(ii) disseminate such other informa-
15 tion obtained pursuant to projects under
16 subparagraph (A) as the National Nurse
17 determines to be appropriate.

18 “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the
19 purpose of carrying out this section, there are authorized
20 to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for
21 each of the fiscal years 2006 through 2010.”.

○