

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 446

To amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize capitation grants to increase the number of nursing faculty and students, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 31, 2007

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

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize capitation grants to increase the number of nursing faculty and students, 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,*

3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

4 This Act may be cited as the “Nurse Education, Ex-
5 pansion, and Development Act of 2007”.

6 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

7 The Congress finds as follows:

8 (1) While the Nurse Reinvestment Act (Public
9 Law 107–205) helped to increase applications to
10 schools of nursing by 125 percent, schools of nursing

1 have been unable to accommodate the influx of in-
2 terested students because they have an insufficient
3 number of nurse educators. It is estimated that—

4 (A) in the 2006–2007 school year—

5 (i) 66.6 percent of schools of nursing
6 had from 1 to 18 vacant faculty positions;
7 and

8 (ii) an additional 16.7 percent of
9 schools of nursing needed additional fac-
10 ulty, but lacked the resources needed to
11 add more positions; and

12 (B) 41,683 eligible candidates were denied
13 admission to schools of nursing in 2005, pri-
14 marily due to an insufficient number of faculty
15 members.

16 (2) A growing number of nurses with doctoral
17 degrees are choosing careers outside of education.
18 Over the last few years, 22.5 percent of doctoral
19 nursing graduates reported seeking employment out-
20 side the education profession.

21 (3) In 2006 the average age of nurse faculty at
22 retirement is 63.1 years. With the average age of
23 doctorally-prepared nurse faculty at 54.7 years in
24 2005, a wave of retirements is expected within the
25 next 10 years.

16 SEC. 3. CAPITATION GRANTS TO INCREASE THE NUMBER
17 OF NURSING FACULTY AND STUDENTS.

18 (a) GRANTS.—Part D of title VIII of the Public
19 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 296p) is amended by add-
20 ing at the end the following:

21 "SEC. 832. CAPITATION GRANTS.

22 "(a) IN GENERAL.—For the purpose described in
23 subsection (b), the Secretary, acting through the Health
24 Resources and Services Administration, shall award a
25 grant each fiscal year in an amount determined in accord-

1 ance with subsection (c) to each eligible school of nursing
2 that submits an application in accordance with this sec-
3 tion.

4 “(b) PURPOSE.—A funding agreement for a grant
5 under this section is that the eligible school of nursing
6 involved will expend the grant to increase the number of
7 nursing faculty and students at the school, including by
8 hiring new faculty, retaining current faculty, purchasing
9 educational equipment and audiovisual laboratories, en-
10 hancing clinical laboratories, repairing and expanding in-
11 frastructure, or recruiting students.

12 “(c) GRANT COMPUTATION.—

13 “(1) AMOUNT PER STUDENT.—Subject to para-
14 graph (2), the amount of a grant to an eligible
15 school of nursing under this section for a fiscal year
16 shall be the total of the following:

17 “(A) \$1,800 for each full-time or part-time
18 student who is enrolled at the school in a grad-
19 uate program in nursing that—

20 “(i) leads to a master’s degree, a doc-
21 toral degree, or an equivalent degree; and

22 “(ii) prepares individuals to serve as
23 faculty through additional course work in
24 education and ensuring competency in an
25 advanced practice area.

1 “(B) \$1,405 for each full-time or part-time
2 student who—

3 “(i) is enrolled at the school in a pro-
4 gram in nursing leading to a bachelor of
5 science degree, a bachelor of nursing de-
6 gree, a graduate degree in nursing if such
7 program does not meet the requirements of
8 subparagraph (A), or an equivalent degree;
9 and

10 “(ii) has not more than 3 years of
11 academic credits remaining in the pro-
12 gram.

13 “(C) \$966 for each full-time or part-time
14 student who is enrolled at the school in a pro-
15 gram in nursing leading to an associate degree
16 in nursing or an equivalent degree.

17 “(2) LIMITATION.—In calculating the amount
18 of a grant to a school under paragraph (1), the Sec-
19 etary may not make a payment with respect to a
20 particular student—

21 “(A) for more than 2 fiscal years in the
22 case of a student described in paragraph (1)(A)
23 who is enrolled in a graduate program in nurs-
24 ing leading to a master’s degree or an equiva-
25 lent degree;

1 “(B) for more than 4 fiscal years in the
2 case of a student described in paragraph (1)(A)
3 who is enrolled in a graduate program in nurs-
4 ing leading to a doctoral degree or an equiva-
5 lent degree;

6 “(C) for more than 3 fiscal years in the
7 case of a student described in paragraph
8 (1)(B); or

9 “(D) for more than 2 fiscal years in the
10 case of a student described in paragraph
11 (1)(C).

12 “(d) ELIGIBILITY.—For purposes of this section, the
13 term ‘eligible school of nursing’ means a school of nursing
14 that—

15 “(1) is accredited by a nursing accrediting
16 agency recognized by the Secretary of Education;

17 “(2) has a passage rate on the National Council
18 Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses of not
19 less than 80 percent for each of the 3 school years
20 preceding submission of the grant application; and

21 “(3) has a graduation rate (based on the num-
22 ber of students in a class who graduate relative to,
23 for a baccalaureate program, the number of students
24 who were enrolled in the class at the beginning of
25 junior year or, for an associate degree program, the

1 number of students who were enrolled in the class
2 at the end of the first year) of not less than 80 per-
3 cent for each of the 3 school years preceding submis-
4 sion of the grant application.

5 “(e) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary may award a
6 grant under this section to an eligible school of nursing
7 only if the school gives assurances satisfactory to the Sec-
8 retary that, for each school year for which the grant is
9 awarded, the school will comply with the following:

10 “(1) The school will maintain a passage rate on
11 the National Council Licensure Examination for
12 Registered Nurses of not less than 80 percent.

13 “(2) The school will maintain a graduation rate
14 (as described in subsection (d)(3)) of not less than
15 80 percent.

16 “(3)(A) Subject to subparagraphs (B) and (C),
17 the first-year enrollment of full-time nursing stu-
18 dents in the school will exceed such enrollment for
19 the preceding school year by 5 percent or 5 students,
20 whichever is greater.

21 “(B) Subparagraph (A) does not apply to the
22 first school year for which a school receives a grant
23 under this section.

1 “(C) With respect to any school year, the Sec-
2 retary may waive application of subparagraph (A)
3 if—

4 “(i) the physical facilities at the school in-
5 volved limit the school from enrolling additional
6 students; or

7 “(ii) the school has increased enrollment in
8 the school (as described in subparagraph (A))
9 for each of the 2 preceding school years.

10 “(4) Not later than 1 year after receipt of the
11 grant, the school will formulate and implement a
12 plan to accomplish at least 2 of the following:

13 “(A) Establishing or significantly expand-
14 ing an accelerated baccalaureate degree nursing
15 program designed to graduate new nurses in 12
16 to 18 months.

17 “(B) Establishing cooperative
18 intradisciplinary education among schools of
19 nursing with a view toward shared use of tech-
20 nological resources, including information tech-
21 nology.

22 “(C) Establishing cooperative interdiscipli-
23 nary training between schools of nursing and
24 schools of allied health, medicine, dentistry, os-
25 teopathy, optometry, podiatry, pharmacy, public

1 health, or veterinary medicine, including training
2 for the use of the interdisciplinary team approach
3 to the delivery of health services.

4 “(D) Integrating core competencies on evidence-based practice, quality improvements, and
5 patient-centered care.

6 “(E) Increasing admissions, enrollment,
7 and retention of qualified individuals who are
8 financially disadvantaged.

9 “(F) Increasing enrollment of minority and
10 diverse student populations.

11 “(G) Increasing enrollment of new graduate
12 baccalaureate nursing students in graduate
13 programs that educate nurse faculty members.

14 “(H) Developing post-baccalaureate residency
15 programs to prepare nurses for practice
16 in specialty areas where nursing shortages are
17 most severe.

18 “(I) Increasing integration of geriatric content
19 into the core curriculum.

20 “(J) Partnering with economically disadvantaged
21 communities to provide nursing education.

1 “(K) Expanding the ability of nurse man-
2 aged health centers to provide clinical education
3 training sites to nursing students.

4 “(5) The school will submit an annual report to
5 the Secretary that includes updated information on
6 the school with respect to student enrollment, stu-
7 dent retention, graduation rates, passage rates on
8 the National Council Licensure Examination for
9 Registered Nurses, the number of graduates em-
10 ployed as nursing faculty or nursing care providers
11 within 12 months of graduation, and the number of
12 students who are accepted into graduate programs
13 for further nursing education.

14 “(6) The school will allow the Secretary to
15 make on-site inspections, and will comply with the
16 Secretary’s requests for information, to determine
17 the extent to which the school is complying with the
18 requirements of this section.

19 “(f) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall
20 evaluate the results of grants under this section and sub-
21 mit to the Congress—

22 “(1) not later than 18 months after the date of
23 the enactment of this section, an interim report on
24 such results; and

1 “(2) not later than the end of fiscal year 2010,
2 a final report on such results.

3 “(g) APPLICATION.—To seek a grant under this sec-
4 tion, a school nursing shall submit an application to the
5 Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing
6 such information and assurances as the Secretary may re-
7 quire.

8 “(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—For the costs of carrying
10 out this section (except the costs described in para-
11 graph (2)), there are authorized to be appropriated
12 \$75,000,000 for fiscal year 2008, \$85,000,000 for
13 fiscal year 2009, and \$95,000,000 for fiscal year
14 2010.

15 “(2) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—For the costs of
16 administering this section, including the costs of
17 evaluating the results of grants and submitting re-
18 ports to the Congress, there are authorized to be ap-
19 propriated such sums as may be necessary for each
20 of fiscal years 2008, 2009, and 2010.”.

21 (b) GAO STUDY.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
23 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Com-
24 ptroller General of the United States shall conduct a
25 study and submit a report to the Congress on ways

1 to increase participation in the nurse faculty profes-
2 sion.

3 (2) CONTENTS OF REPORT.—The report re-
4 quired by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

5 (A) A discussion of the master's degree
6 and doctoral degree programs that are success-
7 ful in placing graduates as faculty in schools of
8 nursing.

9 (B) An examination of compensation dis-
10 parities throughout the nursing profession and
11 compensation disparities between higher edu-
12 cation instructional faculty generally and higher
13 education instructional nursing faculty.

