

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4601

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 4, 2010

Mr. BLUMENAUER 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 the
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 2010”.

6 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHING THE OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL**
7 **NURSE.**

8 Title XVII of the Public Health Service Act (42
9 U.S.C. 300u et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
10 the following:

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

2 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE.—

3 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established within
4 the Public Health Service an office to be known as
5 the Office of the National Nurse, which shall be
6 headed by a registered nurse, appointed by the Sec-
7 retary, serving in a full-time position to be known as
8 the National Nurse.

9 “(2) PROCEDURE.—Except for the initial ap-
10 pointment of the National Nurse under paragraph
11 (3), the Secretary shall appoint the National Nurse
12 in accordance with Commissioned Corps Instruction
13 CC23.4.6 (relating to Chief Professional Officer
14 Nominations), as in effect on February 13, 2008.

15 “(3) INITIAL APPOINTMENT.—Not later than
16 30 days after the date of enactment of this section,
17 the Secretary shall appoint the individual serving as
18 the Chief Nurse Officer of the Public Health Service
19 as of the date of the enactment of this section as the
20 first National Nurse.

21 “(b) RANK AND GRADE.—The National Nurse shall
22 have the same rank and grade as the Deputy Surgeon
23 General of the Public Health Service.

24 “(c) DUTIES.—The National Nurse shall carry out
25 the following:

1 “(1) Provide leadership and coordination of
2 Public Health Service nursing professional affairs
3 for the Office of the Surgeon General and other
4 agencies of the Public Health Service, including pro-
5 viding representation for the Government of the
6 United States at the Global Forum for Government
7 Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officers and serving as
8 a member of the Federal Nursing Service Council.

9 “(2) Represent the Surgeon General and the
10 agencies of Public Health Service in communications
11 with groups and societies concerned with nursing
12 issues at the local, State, national, and international
13 levels.

14 “(3) Provide guidance and advice to the Sur-
15 geon General and the Nurse Professional Advisory
16 Committee on matters such as standards, recruit-
17 ment, retention, readiness, and career development
18 of nurses employed by and contracted with agencies
19 of the Public Health Service.

20 “(4) Conduct media campaigns and make per-
21 sonal appearances for purposes of paragraphs (5)
22 through (7).

23 “(5) Provide guidance and leadership for activi-
24 ties to promote the public health, including encour-
25 aging nurses and other health professionals to be

1 volunteers and developing projects that educate the
2 public about and engage the public in prevention
3 practices to achieve better health.

4 “(6) Provide guidance and leadership to encour-
5 age nurses to become nurse educators.

6 “(7) Provide guidance and leadership for activi-
7 ties that will increase public safety and emergency
8 preparedness.

9 “(d) ANNUAL HEALTH PRIORITIES.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each fiscal year, the Na-
11 tional Nurse shall identify, in consultation with the
12 Surgeon General, heads of the agencies of the Public
13 Health Service, States, and organizations that rep-
14 resent health professionals, annual health priorities.

15 “(2) CARRYING OUT ANNUAL HEALTH PRIOR-
16 ITIES.—The National Nurse, in addressing the an-
17 nual health priorities, shall encourage volunteerism
18 of nurses and other individuals, and strengthen the
19 relationship between Government agencies and
20 health-related national organizations.

21 “(3) COMMUNITY-BASED PROJECTS.—

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this
23 subsection, the National Nurse shall encourage
24 community-based, nonprofit organizations to
25 seek grants for the purpose of education and

1 interventions to address the annual health pri-
2 orities.

3 “(B) IMPLEMENTATION.—In encouraging
4 community-based, nonprofit organizations
5 under subparagraph (A), the National Nurse
6 shall—

7 “(i) provide guidance and coordination
8 on recommended activities to such organi-
9 zations;

10 “(ii) encourage practicing nurses and
11 other health professionals, including retired
12 health professionals and students enrolled
13 in health professional programs, to partici-
14 pate in health promotion activities and rep-
15 licate successful health promotion activi-
16 ties;

17 “(iii) monitor activities being con-
18 ducted through the collection and evalua-
19 tion of data to determine if the annual
20 health priorities are being addressed; and

21 “(iv) acknowledge successful programs
22 and encourage their replication.

23 “(C) MEDIA CAMPAIGNS.—The National
24 Nurse shall ensure that media campaigns con-
25 ducted under subsection (c)(4) include media

1 campaigns regarding the annual health prior-
2 ities.

3 “(D) EVALUATIONS.—The National Nurse
4 shall, directly or through awards of grants or
5 contracts, evaluate the activities encouraged by
6 the National Nurse and conducted by commu-
7 nity-based, nonprofit organizations under sub-
8 paragraph (A) to determine the extent to which
9 such activities have succeeded in carrying out
10 the purpose described in such subparagraph.

11 “(E) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—
12 The National Nurse shall disseminate informa-
13 tion to governmental agencies, schools, and
14 community-based, nonprofit organizations inter-
15 ested in health promotion and improving public
16 health through community action.

17 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the
18 purpose of carrying out this section, there are authorized
19 to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for
20 each of the fiscal years 2010 through 2014.”.

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