

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3859

To express the sense of the Senate concerning the establishment of Doctor of Nursing Practice and Doctor of Pharmacy dual degree programs.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 28, 2010

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

A BILL

To express the sense of the Senate concerning the establishment of Doctor of Nursing Practice and Doctor of Pharmacy dual degree programs.

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

3 That:

4 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

5 This Act may be cited as the “Doctor of Nursing
6 Practice and Doctor of Pharmacy Dual Degree Program
7 Act of 2010”.

8 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

9 The Senate makes the following findings:

1 (1) The terms dual, joint, double or combined
2 degrees are used interchangeably, the overall defini-
3 tion is students working for two different and dis-
4 tinct degrees in parallel, completing two degrees in
5 less time than it would take to complete each sepa-
6 rately.

12 (3) The American Association of Colleges of
13 Nursing (AACN) 2009 survey of schools of nursing
14 documents that there are over 100 nursing schools
15 that offer dual degree programs of which 74 are
16 MSN/MBA programs, 34 are MSN/MPH programs,
17 10 are MSN/MHA programs, 5 are MSN/MPA pro-
18 grams, 4 are MSN/MDIV programs, and 3 are
19 MSN/JD programs.

20 (4) There is currently no dual degree program
21 that combines nursing and pharmacology.

22 (5) Recently, the University of Hawaii at Hilo
23 has explored the option of nursing and pharmacy
24 partnering to meet the needs of the changing health
25 care field.

1 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF THE SENATE.**

2 It is the sense of the Senate that—

3 (1) there should be established a Doctor of
4 Nursing Practice (DNP) and Doctor of Pharmacy
5 (PharmD) dual degree program;6 (2) the development of a joint degree in nursing
7 and pharmacology should combine a Doctor of Nurs-
8 ing Practice (DNP) with a Doctor of Pharmacy
9 (PharmD);10 (3) the significance of such a dual degree pro-
11 gram would be improving patient outcomes;12 (4) through such a dual collaborative role,
13 health providers will be better able to meet the
14 unique needs of rural communities across the age
15 continuum and in diverse settings;

16 (5) such a dual degree program—

17 (A) would enhance collaboration between
18 Doctors of Nursing Practice and physicians re-
19 garding drug therapy;20 (B) would provide for research concerning,
21 and the implementation of, safer medication ad-
22 ministration;23 (C) would broaden the scope of practice for
24 pharmacists through education and training in
25 diagnosis and management of common acute
26 and chronic diseases;

(E) would assist in filling the need for primary care providers with an expertise in geriatrics and pharmaceuticals; and