

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1205

To designate the same individual serving as the Chief Nurse Officer of the Public Health Service as the National Nurse for Public Health.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 6, 2015

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To designate the same individual serving as the Chief Nurse Officer of the Public Health Service as the National Nurse for Public Health.

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 2015”.

6 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL NURSE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH.**

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

1 **“SEC. 1711. NATIONAL NURSE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH.**

2 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

3 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The same individual des-
4 ignated as the Chief Nurse Officer of the Public
5 Health Service under section 205 shall also be des-
6 ignated by the Secretary as the National Nurse for
7 Public Health.

8 “(2) DESIGNATION.—Not later than 30 days
9 after the date of enactment of this section, the Sec-
10 retary shall designate the individual serving as the
11 Chief Nurse Officer of the Public Health Service on
12 such date as the first National Nurse for Public
13 Health. Subsequent designations shall occur in ac-
14 cordance with Commissioned Corps Instruction
15 CC23.4.6 (relating to Chief Professional Officer
16 Nominations), as in effect on February 13, 2008.

17 “(b) RANK AND GRADE.—The National Nurse for
18 Public Health shall be of an equivalent rank to the Chief
19 of the Army and Air Force Nurse Corps and the Director
20 of Navy Nurse Corps.

21 “(c) DUTIES.—The National Nurse for Public Health
22 shall carry out the following:

23 “(1) Provide leadership and coordination of
24 Public Health Service nursing professional affairs
25 for the Office of the Surgeon General and other
26 agencies of the Public Health Service, including pro-

1 viding representation for the Government of the
2 United States at the Global Forum for Government
3 Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officers and serving as
4 a member of the Federal Nursing Service Council.

5 “(2) Represent the Surgeon General and the
6 agencies of Public Health Service in communications
7 with groups and societies concerned with nursing
8 issues at the local, State, national, and international
9 levels.

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

16 “(4) Conduct outreach and education for pur-
17 poses of paragraphs (5) through (7).

18 “(5) Provide guidance and leadership for activi-
19 ties to promote the public health, including encour-
20 aging nurses and other health professionals to be
21 volunteers and developing projects that educate the
22 public about and engage the public in prevention
23 practices to achieve better health.

24 “(6) Provide guidance and leadership to encour-
25 age nurses to engage in furthering their education in

1 order to conduct nursing research, increase the
 2 awareness of evidence-based practice, and educate
 3 future nurses.

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

7 “(8) Prepare and publish a biennial report on
 8 the state of the Commissioned Corps of the Public
 9 Health Service Nurse Category.

10 “(d) NATIONAL HEALTH PRIORITIES—NATIONAL
 11 PREVENTION STRATEGY.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The National Nurse for
 13 Public Health, in cooperation with the Surgeon Gen-
 14 eral of the Public Health Service, heads of the agen-
 15 cies of the Public Health Service, States, and orga-
 16 nizations that represent health professionals, shall
 17 continue to participate in the identification of na-
 18 tional health priorities.

19 “(2) ADDRESSING NATIONAL HEALTH PRIOR-
 20 ITIES.—The National Nurse for Public Health, in
 21 addressing national health priorities, shall encourage
 22 volunteerism of nurses and other individuals, and
 23 strengthen the relationship between Government
 24 agencies and health-related national organizations.

25 “(3) COMMUNITY-BASED PROJECTS.—

1 “(A) IMPLEMENTATION.—In addressing
2 national health priorities, the National Nurse
3 for Public Health shall—

4 “(i) provide guidance and coordination
5 on recommended activities to organiza-
6 tions;

7 “(ii) acknowledge successful programs
8 and encourage their replication;

9 “(iii) promote the dissemination of
10 evidence-based practice in educating the
11 public on health promotion and disease
12 prevention activities;

13 “(iv) encourage practicing nurses and
14 other health professionals, including retired
15 health professionals and students enrolled
16 in health professional programs, to partici-
17 pate in health promotion activities and rep-
18 licate successful health promotion activities
19 in their local communities; and

20 “(v) collaborate with Federal agencies
21 to monitor activities being conducted
22 through the collection and evaluation of
23 data to determine if national health prior-
24 ities are being addressed.

1 “(B) OUTREACH AND EDUCATION.—In
 2 conducting outreach and education under sub-
 3 section (c)(4), the National Nurse for Public
 4 Health shall give priority to the inclusion of di-
 5 verse approaches, including social media cam-
 6 paigns, to address national health priorities.

7 “(C) EVALUATIONS.—The National Nurse
 8 for Public Health shall participate in preparing
 9 the annual status report of the National Pre-
 10 vention, Health Promotion and Public Health
 11 Council under section 4001(h)(2) of the Patient
 12 Protection and Affordable Care Act.

13 “(D) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—
 14 The National Nurse for Public Health shall dis-
 15 seminate information to governmental agencies,
 16 schools, and community-based, nonprofit orga-
 17 nizations interested in health promotion and
 18 improving public health through community ac-
 19 tion.”.

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