

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1106

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 11, 2017

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 2017”.

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.—The same individual des-
3 ignated as the Chief Nurse Officer of the Public Health
4 Service under section 205 shall also be designated by the
5 Secretary as the National Nurse for Public Health.

6 “(b) DUTIES.—The National Nurse for Public
7 Health shall carry out the following:

8 “(1) Provide leadership and coordination of
9 Public Health Service nursing professional affairs
10 for the Office of the Surgeon General and other
11 agencies of the Public Health Service, including pro-
12 viding representation for the Government of the
13 United States at the Global Forum for Government
14 Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officers and serving as
15 a member of the Federal Nursing Service Council.

16 “(2) Represent the Surgeon General and the
17 agencies of Public Health Service in communications
18 with groups and societies concerned with nursing
19 issues at the local, State, national, and international
20 levels.

21 “(3) Provide guidance and advice to the Sur-
22 geon General and the Nurse Professional Advisory
23 Committee on matters such as standards, recruit-
24 ment, retention, readiness, and career development
25 of nurses employed by and contracted with agencies
26 of the Public Health Service.

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

3 “(5) Provide guidance and leadership for activi-
4 ties to promote the public health, including encour-
5 aging nurses and other health professionals to be
6 volunteers and developing projects that educate the
7 public about and engage the public in prevention
8 practices to achieve better health.

9 “(6) Provide guidance and leadership to encour-
10 age nurses to engage in furthering their education in
11 order to conduct nursing research, increase the
12 awareness of evidence-based practice, and educate
13 future nurses.

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

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

20 “(c) NATIONAL HEALTH PRIORITIES—NATIONAL
21 PREVENTION STRATEGY.—

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The National Nurse for
23 Public Health, in cooperation with the Surgeon Gen-
24 eral of the Public Health Service, heads of the agen-
25 cies of the Public Health Service, States, and orga-

1 nizations that represent health professionals, shall
2 continue to participate in the identification of na-
3 tional health priorities.

4 “(2) ADDRESSING NATIONAL HEALTH PRIOR-
5 ITIES.—The National Nurse for Public Health, in
6 addressing national health priorities, shall encourage
7 volunteerism of nurses and other individuals, and
8 strengthen the relationship between Government
9 agencies and health-related national organizations.

10 “(3) COMMUNITY-BASED PROJECTS.—

11 “(A) IMPLEMENTATION.—In addressing
12 national health priorities, the National Nurse
13 for Public Health shall—

14 “(i) provide guidance and coordination
15 on recommended activities to organiza-
16 tions;

17 “(ii) acknowledge successful programs
18 and encourage their replication;

19 “(iii) promote the dissemination of
20 evidence-based practice in educating the
21 public on health promotion and disease
22 prevention activities;

23 “(iv) encourage practicing nurses and
24 other health professionals, including retired
25 health professionals and students enrolled

1 in health professional programs, to partici-
2 pate in health promotion activities and rep-
3 licate successful health promotion activities
4 in their local communities; and

5 “(v) collaborate with Federal agencies
6 to monitor activities being conducted
7 through the collection and evaluation of
8 data to determine if national health prior-
9 ities are being addressed.

10 “(B) OUTREACH AND EDUCATION.—In
11 conducting outreach and education under sub-
12 section (b)(4), the National Nurse for Public
13 Health shall give priority to the inclusion of di-
14 verse approaches, including social media cam-
15 paigns, to address national health priorities.

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

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