

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1597

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

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 7, 2019

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas (for herself, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BONAMICI, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CICCILLINE, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. DELBENE, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. HURD of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KINZINGER, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. PETERS, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. RUSH, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHRADER, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. TONKO, Mr. WELCH, Ms. WILD, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. KILMER, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. COSTA, Ms. NORTON, Ms. MENG, and Mr. COHEN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “National Nurse Act  
3 of 2019”.

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

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

8 **“SEC. 1712. NATIONAL NURSE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH.**

9 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The same individual des-  
10 ignated as the Chief Nurse Officer of the Public Health  
11 Service under section 205 shall also be designated by the  
12 Secretary as the National Nurse for Public Health.

13 “(b) AUTHORITY.—The National Nurse for Public  
14 Health shall have the authority and flexibility to carry out  
15 the following:

16 “(1) Provide leadership and coordination of  
17 Public Health Service nursing professional affairs  
18 for the Office of the Surgeon General and other  
19 agencies of the Public Health Service, including pro-  
20 viding representation for the Government of the  
21 United States at the Global Forum for Government  
22 Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officers and serving as  
23 a member of the Federal Nursing Service Council.

24 “(2) Represent the Surgeon General and the  
25 agencies of Public Health Service in communications  
26 with groups and societies concerned with nursing

1 issues at the local, State, national, and international  
2 levels.

3 “(3) Provide guidance and advice to the Sur-  
4 geon General and the Nurse Professional Advisory  
5 Committee on matters such as standards, recruit-  
6 ment, retention, readiness, and career development  
7 of nurses employed by and contracted with agencies  
8 of the Public Health Service.

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

11 “(5) Provide guidance and leadership for activi-  
12 ties to promote the public health, including encour-  
13 aging nurses and other health professionals to be  
14 volunteers and developing projects that educate the  
15 public about and engage the public in prevention  
16 practices to achieve better health.

17 “(6) Provide guidance and leadership to encour-  
18 age nurses to engage in furthering their education in  
19 order to conduct nursing research, increase the  
20 awareness of evidence-based practice, and educate  
21 future nurses.

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

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

4           “(c) NATIONAL HEALTH PRIORITIES—NATIONAL  
5 PREVENTION STRATEGY.—

6           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The National Nurse for  
7           Public Health, in cooperation with the Surgeon Gen-  
8           eral of the Public Health Service, heads of the agen-  
9           cies of the Public Health Service, States, and orga-  
10          nizations that represent health professionals, shall  
11          continue to participate in the identification of na-  
12          tional health priorities.

13          “(2) ADDRESSING NATIONAL HEALTH PRIOR-  
14          ITIES.—The National Nurse for Public Health, in  
15          addressing national health priorities, shall encourage  
16          volunteerism of nurses and other individuals, and  
17          strengthen the relationship between Government  
18          agencies and health-related national organizations.

19          “(3) COMMUNITY-BASED PROJECTS.—

20                 “(A) IMPLEMENTATION.—In addressing  
21                 national health priorities, the National Nurse  
22                 for Public Health shall—

23                         “(i) provide guidance and coordination  
24                         on recommended activities to organiza-  
25                         tions;

1           “(ii) acknowledge successful programs  
2           and encourage their replication;

3           “(iii) promote the dissemination of  
4           evidence-based practice in educating the  
5           public on health promotion and disease  
6           prevention activities;

7           “(iv) encourage practicing nurses and  
8           other health professionals, including retired  
9           health professionals and students enrolled  
10          in health professional programs, to partici-  
11          pate in health promotion activities and rep-  
12          licate successful health promotion activities  
13          in their local communities; and

14          “(v) collaborate with Federal agencies  
15          to monitor activities being conducted  
16          through the collection and evaluation of  
17          data to determine if national health prior-  
18          ities are being addressed.

19          “(B) OUTREACH AND EDUCATION.—In  
20          conducting outreach and education under sub-  
21          section (b)(4), the National Nurse for Public  
22          Health shall give priority to the inclusion of di-  
23          verse approaches, including social media cam-  
24          paigns, to address national health priorities.

1           “(C) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—  
2           The National Nurse for Public Health shall dis-  
3           seminate information to governmental agencies,  
4           schools, and community-based, nonprofit orga-  
5           nizations interested in health promotion and  
6           improving public health through community ac-  
7           tion.”.

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