

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 485

To establish the position of National Nurse for Public Health, to be filled by the same individual serving as the Chief Nurse Officer of the Public Health Service.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 4, 2013

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (for herself, Mr. KING of New York, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. MORAN, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. DEFazio, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. HONDA, Mr. HOLT, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. SCHRADER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To establish the position of National Nurse for Public Health, to be filled by the same individual serving as the Chief Nurse Officer of the Public Health Service.

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 2013”.

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

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

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

6 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established within
8 the Office of the Surgeon General a full-time posi-
9 tion, to be filled by a registered nurse to be known
10 as the National Nurse for Public Health.

11 “(2) APPOINTMENT.—

12 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except for the initial
13 appointment of the National Nurse for Public
14 Health under subparagraph (B), the Secretary
15 shall appoint the National Nurse for Public
16 Health in accordance with Commissioned Corps
17 Instruction CC23.4.6 (relating to Chief Profes-
18 sional Officer Nominations), as in effect on
19 February 13, 2008.

20 “(B) INITIAL APPOINTMENT.—Not later
21 than 30 days after the date of enactment of
22 this section, the Secretary shall appoint the in-
23 dividual serving as the Chief Nurse Officer of
24 the Public Health Service as the first National
25 Nurse for Public Health.

1 “(3) RELATION TO POSITION OF CHIEF NURSE
2 OFFICER.—The individual serving as the National
3 Nurse for Public Health shall also serve as the Chief
4 Nurse Officer of the Public Health Service.

5 “(b) RANK AND GRADE.—The National Nurse for
6 Public Health shall have the same rank and grade as the
7 Deputy Surgeon General of the Public Health Service.

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

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

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

23 “(3) Provide guidance and advice to the Sur-
24 geon General and the Nurse Professional Advisory
25 Committee on matters such as standards, recruit-

1 ment, retention, readiness, and career development
2 of nurses employed by and contracted with agencies
3 of the Public Health Service.

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

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

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

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

21 “(d) NATIONAL HEALTH PRIORITIES—HEALTHY
22 PEOPLE 2020.—

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

1 cies of the Public Health Service, States, and orga-
2 nizations that represent health professionals, shall
3 participate in the identification of national health
4 priorities.

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

11 “(3) COMMUNITY-BASED PROJECTS.—

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

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

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

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

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

1 health professionals and students enrolled
2 in health professional programs, to partici-
3 pate in health promotion activities and rep-
4 licate successful health promotion activi-
5 ties; and

6 “(v) monitor activities being con-
7 ducted through the collection and evalua-
8 tion of data to determine if national health
9 priorities are being addressed.

10 “(B) MEDIA CAMPAIGNS.—The National
11 Nurse for Public Health shall ensure that
12 media campaigns conducted under subsection
13 (c)(4) include media campaigns regarding the
14 national health priorities.

15 “(C) EVALUATIONS.—The National Nurse
16 for Public Health shall, directly or through
17 awards of grants or contracts, evaluate the ac-
18 tivities encouraged by the National Nurse for
19 Public Health and conducted by community-
20 based, nonprofit organizations to determine the
21 extent to which such activities have succeeded
22 in carrying out national health priorities.

23 “(D) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—
24 The National Nurse for Public Health shall dis-
25 seminate information to governmental agencies,

1 schools, and community-based, nonprofit orga-
2 nizations interested in health promotion and
3 improving public health through community ac-
4 tion.”.

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