

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. RES. 166

Supporting the goals and ideals of National Nurses Week, to be observed  
from May 6 through May 12, 2017.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 16, 2017

Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. BOOZMAN)  
submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

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## RESOLUTION

Supporting the goals and ideals of National Nurses Week,  
to be observed from May 6 through May 12, 2017.

Whereas, beginning in 1991, National Nurses Week is celebrated annually from May 6, also known as “National Recognition Day for Nurses”, through May 12, the birthday of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing;

Whereas National Nurses Week is a time of year to reflect on the important contributions that nurses make to provide safe, high-quality health care;

Whereas nurses are known to be patient advocates, acting fearlessly to protect the lives of individuals under the care of the nurses;

Whereas nurses represent the largest single component of the health care profession, with an estimated population of 3,600,000 professionally active nurses in the United States;

Whereas nurses are leading in the delivery of quality care in a transformed health care system that improves patient outcomes and safety;

Whereas the Future of Nursing report of the Institute of Medicine has called for the nursing profession to meet the call for leadership in a team-based delivery model;

Whereas, when nurse staffing levels increase, the risk of patient complications and lengthy hospital stays decreases, resulting in cost savings;

Whereas nurses are experienced researchers, and the work of nurses encompasses a wide scope of scientific inquiry, including clinical research, health systems and outcomes research, and nursing education research;

Whereas nurses provide culturally and ethnically competent care and are educated to be sensitive to the regional and community customs of individuals needing care;

Whereas nurses are well-positioned to provide leadership to eliminate health care disparities that exist in the United States;

Whereas nurses are the cornerstone of the public health infrastructure, promoting healthy lifestyles and educating communities on disease prevention and health promotion;

Whereas nurses are strong allies to Congress as the nurses help inform, educate, and work closely with legislators to improve the education, retention, recruitment, and practice of all nurses and, more importantly, the health and safety of the patients for whom the nurses care;

Whereas strengthening nursing workforce development programs at all levels, including the number of doctorally prepared faculty members, and providing education to the nurse research scientists who can discover new nursing care models to improve the health status of the diverse population of the United States, are needed;

Whereas nurses touch the lives of the people of the United States from birth to the end of life; and

Whereas nursing has been voted as the most honest and ethical profession in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2               (1) supports the goals and ideals of National  
3       Nurses Week, as founded by the American Nurses  
4       Association;

5               (2) recognizes the significant contributions of  
6       nurses to the health care system in the United  
7       States; and

8               (3) encourages the people of the United States  
9       to observe National Nurses Week with appropriate  
10      recognition, ceremonies, activities, and programs to  
11      demonstrate the importance of nurses to the every-  
12      day lives of patients.

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