

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1651

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 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 21, 2017

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (for herself, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. TONKO, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. LANCE, Mr. SCHRADER, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. HARPER, Mr. MCKINLEY, and Mr. CRAMER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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”.

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

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

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

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

25 “(3) Provide guidance and advice to the Sur-
26 geon General and the Nurse Professional Advisory

1 Committee on matters such as standards, recruit-
2 ment, retention, readiness, and career development
3 of nurses employed by and contracted with agencies
4 of the Public Health Service.

5 “(4) Conduct outreach and education for pur-
6 poses of paragraphs (5) 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 “(8) Prepare and publish a biennial report on
22 the state of the Commissioned Corps of the Public
23 Health Service Nurse Category.

24 “(c) NATIONAL HEALTH PRIORITIES—NATIONAL
25 PREVENTION STRATEGY.—

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

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

14 “(3) COMMUNITY-BASED PROJECTS.—

15 “(A) IMPLEMENTATION.—In addressing
16 national health priorities, the National Nurse
17 for Public Health shall—

18 “(i) provide guidance and coordination
19 on recommended activities to organiza-
20 tions;

21 “(ii) acknowledge successful programs
22 and encourage their replication;

23 “(iii) promote the dissemination of
24 evidence-based practice in educating the

1 public on health promotion and disease
2 prevention activities;

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

10 “(v) collaborate with Federal agencies
11 to monitor activities being conducted
12 through the collection and evaluation of
13 data to determine if national health prior-
14 ities are being addressed.

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

21 “(C) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—
22 The National Nurse for Public Health shall dis-
23 seminate information to governmental agencies,
24 schools, and community-based, nonprofit orga-
25 nizations interested in health promotion and

1 improving public health through community ac-
2 tion.”.

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