

107TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3487

To amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to health professions programs regarding the field of nursing.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 13, 2001

Mr. BILIRAKIS (for himself, Mrs. CAPPS, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. TAUZIN, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. EHR- LICH, Mr. RUSH, Mr. PICKERING, Mr. STRICKLAND, Mr. BURR of North Carolina, Mr. JOHN, Mr. NORWOOD, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. HART, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. FLETCHER, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mrs. THUR- MAN, Ms. DELAURO, and Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin) introduced the fol- lowing bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Com- merce

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## A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to health professions programs regarding the field of nursing.

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 “Nurse Reinvestment  
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS REGARDING**  
2 **NURSING PROFESSION.**

3 Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act (42  
4 U.S.C. 296 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the  
5 following:

6 **“PART H—PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

7 **“SEC. 851. PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall develop and  
9 issue public service announcements that advertise and pro-  
10 mote the nursing profession, highlight the advantages and  
11 rewards of nursing, and encourage individuals to enter the  
12 nursing profession.

13 “(b) METHOD.—The public service announcements  
14 described in subsection (a) shall be broadcast through ap-  
15 propriate media outlets, including television or radio, in  
16 a manner intended to reach as wide and diverse an audi-  
17 ence as possible.

18 **“SEC. 852. STATE AND LOCAL PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCE-**  
19 **MENTS.**

20 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award  
21 grants to eligible entities to support State and local adver-  
22 tising campaigns via appropriate media outlets to promote  
23 the nursing profession, highlight the advantages and re-  
24 wards of nursing, and encourage individuals from dis-  
25 advantaged backgrounds to enter the nursing profession.

1       “(b) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity that receives  
2 a grant under subsection (a) shall use funds received  
3 through such grant to acquire local television and radio  
4 time, place advertisements in local newspapers, and post  
5 information on billboards or on the Internet, in order to—

6               “(1) advertise and promote the nursing profes-  
7 sion;

8               “(2) promote nursing education programs;

9               “(3) inform the public of public assistance re-  
10 garding such education programs;

11               “(4) highlight individuals in the community  
12 that are presently practicing nursing in order to re-  
13 cruit new nurses; and

14               “(5) provide any other information to recruit  
15 individuals for the nursing profession.

16       “(c) METHOD.—The campaigns described in sub-  
17 section (a) shall be broadcast on television or radio, or  
18 placed in newspapers as advertisements, or posted on bill-  
19 boards or the Internet, in a manner intended to reach as  
20 wide and diverse an audience as possible.”.

21 **SEC. 3. LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM; SCHOLARSHIPS.**

22       (a) LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM; ADDITIONAL AS-  
23 SIGNMENT AUTHORITIES.—Section 846(a) of the Public  
24 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 297n(a)) is amended—

25               (1) in paragraph (3)—

1 (A) by striking “in a public hospital,” and  
2 inserting “in a public or private hospital (in-  
3 cluding a critical access hospital or a rural hos-  
4 pital),”; and

5 (B) by inserting after “rural health clinic,”  
6 the following: “in a State or local department  
7 of public health, in a skilled nursing facility, in  
8 a home health agency, in a hospice program  
9 (including home settings), in an ambulatory  
10 surgical center,”; and

11 (2) by adding at the end the following: “In the  
12 case of a private entity that is not a nonprofit entity  
13 and is pursuant to paragraph (3) eligible for an as-  
14 signment of a nurse, the Secretary may not assign  
15 a nurse to such an entity after the expiration of the  
16 three-year period beginning on the date of the enact-  
17 ment of the Nurse Reinvestment Act.”.

18 (b) ESTABLISHMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.—  
19 Section 846 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.  
20 297n) is amended—

21 (1) in the heading for the section, by striking  
22 “PROGRAM” and inserting “AND SCHOLARSHIP PRO-  
23 GRAMS”;

1           (2) by redesignating subsections (d), (f), (g),  
2           and (h) as subsections (f), (h), (i), and (g), respec-  
3           tively;

4           (3) by transferring subsections (f) and (g) (as  
5           so redesignated) from their current placements, by  
6           inserting subsection (f) after subsection (e), and by  
7           inserting subsection (g) after subsection (f) (as so  
8           inserted); and

9           (4) by inserting after subsection (c) the fol-  
10          lowing subsection:

11         “(d) SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.—

12                 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may carry  
13                 out a program of entering into contracts with eligi-  
14                 ble individuals under which such individuals agree to  
15                 serve as nurses in designated health facilities in con-  
16                 sideration of the Federal Government agreeing to  
17                 provide to the individuals scholarships for attend-  
18                 ance at schools of nursing.

19                 “(2) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS; DESIGNATED  
20                 HEALTH FACILITIES.—For purposes of this sub-  
21                 section:

22                         “(A) The term ‘eligible individual’ means  
23                         an individual who is enrolled or accepted for en-  
24                         rollment as a full-time student in a school of  
25                         nursing.

1           “(B) The term ‘designated health facility’  
2           means any entity that is eligible under sub-  
3           section (a) for an assignment of a nurse, sub-  
4           ject to the provisions of such subsection relating  
5           to private entities that are not nonprofit enti-  
6           ties.

7           “(3) APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN PROVI-  
8           SIONS.—With respect to the National Health Service  
9           Corps Scholarship Repayment Program established  
10          in subpart III of part D of title III, the provisions  
11          of such subpart shall, except as inconsistent with  
12          this section, apply to the program established in  
13          paragraph (1) in the same manner and to the same  
14          extent as such provisions apply to the National  
15          Health Service Corps Scholarship Program estab-  
16          lished in such subpart.”.

17          (c) PREFERENCES REGARDING PARTICIPANTS.—Sec-  
18          tion 846(e) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.  
19          297n(e)) is amended in the matter preceding paragraph  
20          (1) by striking “subsection (a)” and inserting “subsection  
21          (a) or (d)”.

22          (d) DEFINITIONS.—Section 846 of the Public Health  
23          Service Act (42 U.S.C. 297n) is amended in subsection  
24          (h) (as redesignated by subsection (b)(2) of this section)  
25          by amending the subsection to read as follows:

1 “(h) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

2 “(1) The term ‘ambulatory surgical center’ has  
3 the meaning applicable to such term under title  
4 XVIII of the Social Security Act.

5 “(2) The term ‘community health center’ has  
6 the meaning applicable to such term under section  
7 330.

8 “(3) The term ‘home health agency’ has the  
9 meaning given such term in section 1861(o) of the  
10 Social Security Act.

11 “(4) The term ‘hospice program’ has the mean-  
12 ing given such term in section 1861(dd)(2) of the  
13 Social Security Act.

14 “(5) The term ‘migrant health center’ has the  
15 meaning applicable to such term under section 330.

16 “(6) The term ‘rural health clinic’ has the  
17 meaning given such term in section 1861(aa)(2) of  
18 the Social Security Act.

19 “(7) The term ‘rural hospital’ means a hospital  
20 located in a rural area, as defined in section  
21 1886(d)(2)(D) of the Social Security Act.

22 “(8) The term ‘skilled nursing facility’ has the  
23 meaning given such term in section 1819(a) of the  
24 Social Security Act.”.

1 (e) FUNDING.—Section 846 of the Public Health  
2 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 297n) is amended in subsection  
3 (i) (as redesignated by subsection (b)(2) of this section)  
4 by amending the subsection to read as follows:

5 “(i) FUNDING.—

6 “(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—  
7 For the purpose of payments under agreements en-  
8 tered into under subsection (a) or (d), there are au-  
9 thorized to be appropriated such sums as may be  
10 necessary for each of the fiscal years 2002 through  
11 2007.

12 “(2) ALLOCATIONS.—Of the amounts appro-  
13 priated under paragraph (1), the Secretary may as  
14 determined appropriate by the Secretary allocate  
15 amounts between the program under subsection (a)  
16 and the program under subsection (d).”.

17 **SEC. 4. STUDIES BY GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE.**

18 (a) HIRING DIFFERENCES AMONG CERTAIN PRIVATE  
19 ENTITIES.—The Comptroller General of the United States  
20 shall conduct a study to determine differences in the hir-  
21 ing of nurses by nonprofit private entities as compared  
22 to the hiring of nurses by private entities that are not non-  
23 profit. In carrying out the study, the Comptroller General  
24 shall determine the effect of the inclusion of private enti-  
25 ties that are not nonprofit in the program under section



1 846 of the Public Health Service Act. Not later than two  
2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the  
3 Comptroller General shall submit to the Congress a report  
4 describing the findings of the study.

5 (b) NURSE FACULTY.—

6 (1) DETERMINATION REGARDING SHORTAGE OF  
7 FACULTY.—The Comptroller General of the United  
8 States shall conduct a study to determine whether  
9 and to what extent there is a shortage of faculty for  
10 schools of nursing. Not later than June 30, 2002,  
11 the Comptroller General shall submit to the Con-  
12 gress a report describing the findings of the study.

13 (2) RECOMMENDATIONS.—If the Comptroller  
14 General determines pursuant to paragraph (1) that  
15 there is or will be a shortage of faculty for schools  
16 of nursing, the Comptroller General shall, not later  
17 than September 30, 2002, submit to the Congress a  
18 report providing the recommendations of the Comp-  
19 troller General for developing scholarship programs,  
20 loan repayment programs, private-public partner-  
21 ships, or other programs through the Department of  
22 Health and Human Services to provide for an in-  
23 crease in the number of such faculty, including rec-

- 1 ommendations on appropriate incentives for nurses
- 2 to become such faculty.

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