To amend the Public Health Service Act to establish the Office of the National Nurse.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 4, 2010

Mr. BLUMENAUER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to establish the Office of the National Nurse.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “National Nurse Act of 2010”.

SEC. 2. ESTABLISHING THE OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL NURSE.

Title XVII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300u et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:
“SEC. 1711. OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL NURSE.

“(a) Establishment of Office.—

“(1) In general.—There is established within the Public Health Service an office to be known as the Office of the National Nurse, which shall be headed by a registered nurse, appointed by the Secretary, serving in a full-time position to be known as the National Nurse.

“(2) Procedure.—Except for the initial appointment of the National Nurse under paragraph (3), the Secretary shall appoint the National Nurse in accordance with Commissioned Corps Instruction CC23.4.6 (relating to Chief Professional Officer Nominations), as in effect on February 13, 2008.

“(3) Initial Appointment.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall appoint the individual serving as the Chief Nurse Officer of the Public Health Service as of the date of the enactment of this section as the first National Nurse.

“(b) Rank and Grade.—The National Nurse shall have the same rank and grade as the Deputy Surgeon General of the Public Health Service.

“(c) Duties.—The National Nurse shall carry out the following:

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“(1) Provide leadership and coordination of Public Health Service nursing professional affairs for the Office of the Surgeon General and other agencies of the Public Health Service, including providing representation for the Government of the United States at the Global Forum for Government Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officers and serving as a member of the Federal Nursing Service Council.

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

“(3) Provide guidance and advice to the Surgeon General and the Nurse Professional Advisory Committee on matters such as standards, recruitment, retention, readiness, and career development of nurses employed by and contracted with agencies of the Public Health Service.

“(4) Conduct media campaigns and make personal appearances for purposes of paragraphs (5) through (7).

“(5) Provide guidance and leadership for activities to promote the public health, including encouraging nurses and other health professionals to be
volunteers and developing projects that educate the
public about and engage the public in prevention
practices to achieve better health.

“(6) Provide guidance and leadership to encour-
age nurses to become nurse educators.

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

“(d) ANNUAL HEALTH PRIORITIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each fiscal year, the Na-
tional Nurse shall identify, in consultation with the
Surgeon General, heads of the agencies of the Public
Health Service, States, and organizations that rep-
resent health professionals, annual health priorities.

“(2) CARRYING OUT ANNUAL HEALTH PRIOR-
ITIES.—The National Nurse, in addressing the an-
nual health priorities, shall encourage volunteerism
of nurses and other individuals, and strengthen the
relationship between Government agencies and
health-related national organizations.

“(3) COMMUNITY-BASED PROJECTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this
subsection, the National Nurse shall encourage
community-based, nonprofit organizations to
seek grants for the purpose of education and
interventions to address the annual health priorities.

“(B) IMPLEMENTATION.—In encouraging community-based, nonprofit organizations under subparagraph (A), the National Nurse shall—

“(i) provide guidance and coordination on recommended activities to such organizations;

“(ii) encourage practicing nurses and other health professionals, including retired health professionals and students enrolled in health professional programs, to participate in health promotion activities and replicate successful health promotion activities;

“(iii) monitor activities being conducted through the collection and evaluation of data to determine if the annual health priorities are being addressed; and

“(iv) acknowledge successful programs and encourage their replication.

“(C) MEDIA CAMPAIGNS.—The National Nurse shall ensure that media campaigns conducted under subsection (c)(4) include media
campaigns regarding the annual health priorities.

“(D) EVALUATIONS.—The National Nurse shall, directly or through awards of grants or contracts, evaluate the activities encouraged by the National Nurse and conducted by community-based, nonprofit organizations under subparagraph (A) to determine the extent to which such activities have succeeded in carrying out the purpose described in such subparagraph.

“(E) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—

The National Nurse shall disseminate information to governmental agencies, schools, and community-based, nonprofit organizations interested in health promotion and improving public health through community action.

“(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the purpose of carrying out this section, there are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 2010 through 2014.”.