

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3679

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 15, 2011

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (for herself, Mr. KING of New York, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. NORTON, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. WELCH, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. OLVER, Mr. BOSWELL, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. HONDA, and Mr. HOLT) 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 position of 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 2011”.

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 registered nurse to be known as
10 the National Nurse for Public Health.

11 “(2) PROCEDURE.—Except for the initial ap-
12 pointment of the National Nurse for Public Health
13 under paragraph (3), the Secretary shall appoint the
14 National Nurse for Public Health in accordance with
15 Commissioned Corps Instruction CC23.4.6 (relating
16 to Chief Professional Officer Nominations), as in ef-
17 fect on February 13, 2008.

18 “(3) INITIAL APPOINTMENT.—Not later than
19 30 days after the date of enactment of this section,
20 the Secretary shall appoint the individual serving as
21 the Chief Nurse Officer of the Public Health Service
22 as of the date of the enactment of this section as the
23 first National Nurse for Public Health.

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

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

3 “(1) Provide leadership and coordination of
4 Public Health Service nursing professional affairs
5 for the Office of the Surgeon General and other
6 agencies of the Public Health Service, including pro-
7 viding representation for the Government of the
8 United States at the Global Forum for Government
9 Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officers and serving as
10 a member of the Federal Nursing Service Council.

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

16 “(3) Provide guidance and advice to the Sur-
17 geon General and the Nurse Professional Advisory
18 Committee on matters such as standards, recruit-
19 ment, retention, readiness, and career development
20 of nurses employed by and contracted with agencies
21 of the Public Health Service.

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

1 “(5) Provide guidance and leadership for activi-
2 ties to promote the public health, including encour-
3 aging nurses and other health professionals to be
4 volunteers and developing projects that educate the
5 public about and engage the public in prevention
6 practices to achieve better health.

7 “(6) Provide guidance and leadership to encour-
8 age nurses to engage in furthering their education in
9 order to conduct nursing research, increase the
10 awareness of evidence-based practice, and educate
11 future nurses.

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

15 “(d) NATIONAL HEALTH PRIORITIES—HEALTHY
16 PEOPLE 2020.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The National Nurse for
18 Public Health, in cooperation with the Surgeon Gen-
19 eral of the Public Health Service, heads of the agen-
20 cies of the Public Health Service, States, and orga-
21 nizations that represent health professionals, shall
22 participate in the identification of national health
23 priorities.

24 “(2) ADDRESSING NATIONAL HEALTH PRIOR-
25 ITIES.—The National Nurse for Public Health, in

1 addressing national health priorities, shall encourage
2 volunteerism of nurses and other individuals, and
3 strengthen the relationship between Government
4 agencies and health-related national organizations.

5 “(3) COMMUNITY-BASED PROJECTS.—

6 “(A) IMPLEMENTATION.—In addressing
7 national health priorities, the National Nurse
8 for Public Health shall—

9 “(i) provide guidance and coordination
10 on recommended activities to organiza-
11 tions;

12 “(ii) acknowledge successful programs
13 and encourage their replication;

14 “(iii) promote the dissemination of
15 evidence-based practice in educating the
16 public on health promotion and disease
17 prevention activities;

18 “(iv) encourage practicing nurses and
19 other health professionals, including retired
20 health professionals and students enrolled
21 in health professional programs, to partici-
22 pate in health promotion activities and rep-
23 licate successful health promotion activi-
24 ties; and

1 “(v) monitor activities being con-
2 ducted through the collection and evalua-
3 tion of data to determine if national health
4 priorities are being addressed.

5 “(B) MEDIA CAMPAIGNS.—The National
6 Nurse for Public Health shall ensure that
7 media campaigns conducted under subsection
8 (c)(4) include media campaigns regarding the
9 national health priorities.

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

18 “(D) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—
19 The National Nurse for Public Health shall dis-
20 seminate information to governmental agencies,
21 schools, and community-based, nonprofit orga-
22 nizations interested in health promotion and
23 improving public health through community ac-
24 tion.”.

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