

113TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1475

To establish the position of National Nurse for Public Health, to be filled by the same individual serving as the Chief Nurse Officer of the Public Health Service.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 1, 2013

Mr. MERKLEY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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## A BILL

To establish the position of National Nurse for Public Health, to be filled by the same individual serving as the Chief Nurse Officer of the Public Health Service.

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 2013”.

6 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL NURSE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH.**

7 Title XVII of the Public Health Service Act (42  
8 U.S.C. 300u et seq.) is amended by adding at the end  
9 the following:

1 **“SEC. 1711. NATIONAL NURSE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH.**

2 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

3 “(1) IN GENERAL.—An individual designated as  
4 the Chief Nurse Officer of the Public Health Service  
5 under section 205 shall be designated by the Sec-  
6 retary as the National Nurse for Public Health.  
7 Such Chief Nurse Office shall serve full-time within  
8 the Office of the Surgeon General.

9 “(2) DESIGNATION.—Not later than 30 days  
10 after the date of enactment of this section, the Sec-  
11 retary shall designate the individual serving as the  
12 Chief Nurse Officer of the Public Health Service on  
13 such date as the first National Nurse for Public  
14 Health. Subsequent designations shall occur in ac-  
15 cordance with Commissioned Corps Instruction  
16 CC23.4.6 (relating to Chief Professional Officer  
17 Nominations), as in effect on February 13, 2008.

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

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

23 “(1) Provide leadership and coordination of  
24 Public Health Service nursing professional affairs  
25 for the Office of the Surgeon General and other  
26 agencies of the Public Health Service, including pro-

1       viding representation for the Government of the  
2       United States at the Global Forum for Government  
3       Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officers and serving as  
4       a member of the Federal Nursing Service Council.

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

10              “(3) Provide guidance and advice to the Sur-  
11       geon General and the Nurse Professional Advisory  
12       Committee on matters such as standards, recruit-  
13       ment, retention, readiness, and career development  
14       of nurses employed by and contracted with agencies  
15       of the Public Health Service.

16              “(4) Conduct outreach and education for pur-  
17       poses of paragraphs (5) through (7).

18              “(5) Provide guidance and leadership for activi-  
19       ties to promote the public health, including encour-  
20       aging nurses and other health professionals to be  
21       volunteers and developing projects that educate the  
22       public about and engage the public in prevention  
23       practices to achieve better health.

24              “(6) Provide guidance and leadership to encour-  
25       age nurses to engage in furthering their education in

1 order to conduct nursing research, increase the  
2 awareness of evidence-based practice, and educate  
3 future nurses.

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

7 “(d) NATIONAL HEALTH PRIORITIES—HEALTHY  
8 PEOPLE 2020.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The National Nurse for  
10 Public Health, in cooperation with the Surgeon Gen-  
11 eral of the Public Health Service, heads of the agen-  
12 cies of the Public Health Service, States, and orga-  
13 nizations that represent health professionals, shall  
14 participate in the identification of national health  
15 priorities.

16 “(2) ADDRESSING NATIONAL HEALTH PRIOR-  
17 ITIES.—The National Nurse for Public Health, in  
18 addressing national health priorities, shall encourage  
19 volunteerism of nurses and other individuals, and  
20 strengthen the relationship between Government  
21 agencies and health-related national organizations.

22 “(3) COMMUNITY-BASED PROJECTS.—

23 “(A) IMPLEMENTATION.—In addressing  
24 national health priorities, the National Nurse  
25 for Public Health shall—

1           “(i) provide guidance and coordination  
2           on recommended activities to organiza-  
3           tions;

4           “(ii) acknowledge successful programs  
5           and encourage their replication;

6           “(iii) promote the dissemination of  
7           evidence-based practice in educating the  
8           public on health promotion and disease  
9           prevention activities;

10          “(iv) encourage practicing nurses and  
11          other health professionals, including retired  
12          health professionals and students enrolled  
13          in health professional programs, to partici-  
14          pate in health promotion activities and rep-  
15          licate successful health promotion activi-  
16          ties; and

17          “(v) monitor activities being con-  
18          ducted through the collection and evalua-  
19          tion of data to determine if national health  
20          priorities are being addressed.

21          “(B) OUTREACH AND EDUCATION.—The  
22          National Nurse for Public Health shall ensure  
23          that outreach and education conducted under  
24          subsection (c)(4) include diverse approaches, in-

1 including social media campaigns, to address na-  
2 tional health priorities.

3 “(C) EVALUATIONS.—The National Nurse  
4 for Public Health shall participate in evaluating  
5 the national, regional, and community-based ac-  
6 tivities encouraged by the National Nurse for  
7 Public Health and conducted by community-  
8 based, nonprofit organizations to determine the  
9 extent to which such activities have succeeded  
10 in carrying out national health priorities.

11 “(D) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—  
12 The National Nurse for Public Health shall dis-  
13 seminate information to governmental agencies,  
14 schools, and community-based, nonprofit orga-  
15 nizations interested in health promotion and  
16 improving public health through community ac-  
17 tion.”.

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