



(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend the Public Health Service Act to support and stabilize the existing nursing workforce, establish programs to increase the number of nurses, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To amend the Public Health Service Act to support and stabilize the existing nursing workforce, establish programs to increase the number of nurses, and for other purposes.

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 Nursing  
5 Workforce Center Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. STATE NURSING WORKFORCE CENTERS.**

2 Title VII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.  
3 292 et seq.) is amended—

4 (1) by redesignating part G (42 U.S.C. 295j et  
5 seq.) as part H; and

6 (2) by inserting after part F the following new  
7 part:

8 **“PART G—NURSING WORKFORCE CENTERS**

9 **“SEC. 785. STATE AND REGIONAL NURSING WORKFORCE**  
10 **CENTER DATA COLLECTION PILOT PRO-**  
11 **GRAM.**

12 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out a  
13 2-year pilot program to establish new or enhance existing  
14 State-based nursing workforce centers, evaluate the im-  
15 pact of State-based nursing workforce centers on out-  
16 comes, and assess the feasibility of nursing workforce pub-  
17 lic-private partnerships. The Secretary shall begin imple-  
18 mentation of such pilot program not later than 1 year  
19 after the date of enactment of the National Nursing Work-  
20 force Center Act of 2023.

21 “(b) GRANT TERMS.—

22 “(1) NUMBER OF GRANTS AWARDED.—The  
23 Secretary shall award not less than 6 grants under  
24 the pilot program under subsection (a).

1           “(2) TERM.—The term of a grant awarded  
2           under the pilot program under subsection (a) shall  
3           be 2 years.

4           “(3) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—As a condi-  
5           tion on receipt of a grant under the pilot program  
6           under subsection (a), the Secretary shall require the  
7           applicant to agree, with respect to costs to be in-  
8           curred by the applicant in carrying out the activities  
9           funded through the grant, to make available non-  
10          Federal contributions (in cash or in kind) toward  
11          such costs in an amount that is equal to not less  
12          than \$1 for each \$4 of Federal funds provided  
13          through the grant. Such contributions may be made  
14          directly or through donations from public or private  
15          entities.

16          “(c) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a grant  
17          under this section, an entity shall be—

18                 “(1) a State agency;

19                 “(2) a State board of nursing;

20                 “(3) an organization that is exempt from tax-  
21                 ation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Rev-  
22                 enue Act of 1986;

23                 “(4) a community-based organization;

24                 “(5) a school of nursing (as defined in section  
25                 801); or

1           “(6) a school or program determined by the  
2           Secretary to be an eligible entity for purposes of this  
3           section.

4           “(d) **EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION.**—In awarding  
5           grants under this section, the Secretary shall ensure, to  
6           the greatest extent possible, that such grants are equitably  
7           distributed among—

8           “(1) the geographical regions of the United  
9           States; and

10           “(2) States with an existing nursing workforce  
11           center and States without any such existing center.

12           “(e) **PRIORITY.**—In selecting the eligible entity to be  
13           awarded a grant under this section for a nursing work-  
14           force center in a particular State, the Secretary shall give  
15           priority to eligible entities that—

16           “(1) propose to provide statewide services;

17           “(2) have expertise in the State’s nursing work-  
18           force issues;

19           “(3) have a history of convening entities to ad-  
20           dress nursing workforce issues; and

21           “(4) have partnerships with entities that tradi-  
22           tionally educate and employ the State’s nurses.

23           “(f) **USE OF FUNDS.**—A nursing workforce center  
24           supported under this section may use funds provided  
25           under this section for the following statewide activities:

1           “(1) Conducting comprehensive analysis of and  
2           research on—

3                   “(A) existing State nursing workforce data  
4                   and gaps in such data;

5                   “(B) two- and four-year nursing education  
6                   programs, including with respect to—

7                           “(i) faculty capacity and pay;

8                           “(ii) enrollment, retention, and grad-  
9                           uation;

10                           “(iii) services for nursing students  
11                           and the outcomes of such services;

12                           “(iv) facility needs; and

13                           “(v) clinical placement capacity;

14                   “(C) State-specific scholarships, grants,  
15                   and financial aid; and

16                   “(D) factors contributing to retention and  
17                   recruitment challenges and to nurses leaving  
18                   the workplace or profession.

19           “(2) Conducting strategic nursing workforce  
20           planning with employers across all work settings and  
21           nursing education.

22           “(3) Conducting focused research on trends in  
23           nursing shortages, including the fiscal and clinical  
24           outcomes of contract nursing.

1           “(4) Establishing and implementing programs  
2           to—

3                   “(A) support and retain faculty to increase  
4                   enrollment in schools of nursing;

5                   “(B) recruit and retain nurses in all set-  
6                   tings where nurses practice;

7                   “(C) support leadership development;

8                   “(D) prepare the nursing workforce to ad-  
9                   dress social determinants of health and health  
10                  inequities;

11                  “(E) prepare nurses for public health crisis  
12                  and pandemic response;

13                  “(F) assist individuals in obtaining edu-  
14                  cation and training required to enter the nurs-  
15                  ing profession, and advance within such profes-  
16                  sion, such as by providing career counseling and  
17                  mentoring; and

18                  “(G) diversify the nursing workforce.

19           “(g) REPORTS.—Not later than one year after the  
20           date on which the first grant is awarded under the pilot  
21           program under subsection (a), and annually thereafter,  
22           the Secretary shall submit to the Congress a report on  
23           the grants awarded under such pilot program during the  
24           year covered by the report. Each such report shall in-  
25           clude—

1           “(1) a description of initiatives to study the  
2           unique characteristics of State nursing workforces,  
3           and efforts to increase the number of new nurses,  
4           recruit nurses to the nursing profession, and retain  
5           nurses in the workplace;

6           “(2) impact data on nurses served by nursing  
7           workforce centers, including demographic informa-  
8           tion of the individuals served, the number of such in-  
9           dividuals, and the types of services provided;

10           “(3) the effectiveness of establishing formal  
11           public-private relationships at understanding the na-  
12           tional nursing workforce through improved data col-  
13           lection and standardization;

14           “(4) data on continuous evaluation and quality  
15           improvement, and other relevant data as determined  
16           by the Secretary; and

17           “(5) the Secretary’s recommendations and best  
18           practices for—

19                   “(A) reducing shortages among different  
20                   nursing specialties;

21                   “(B) reducing shortages in rural and un-  
22                   derserved areas;

23                   “(C) improving geographical distribution of  
24                   the nursing workforce; and

1           “(D) reducing shortages among different  
2           types of nursing employers.

3           “(h) FUNDING.—From the amounts appropriated to  
4 the Health Resources and Services Administration for  
5 workforce initiatives, the Secretary shall use \$1,500,000  
6 for each of fiscal years 2024 and 2025 for carrying out  
7 this section.”.

8   **SEC. 3. STATE AND REGIONAL CENTERS FOR HEALTH**  
9                           **WORKFORCE ANALYSIS.**

10          (a) EXPANSION OF COVERED PROGRAMS.—Section  
11 761(c)(1)(A) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.  
12 294n(c)(1)(A)) is amended by striking “under this title”  
13 and inserting “under this Act”.

14          (b) ANALYSIS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Sec-  
15 tion 761(c) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.  
16 294n(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

17               “(3) MINIMUM REQUIREMENT.—At least one  
18               grant or contract awarded under this subsection  
19               shall be awarded to an eligible entity that dem-  
20               onstrates—

21                       “(A) a mission to advance and support the  
22                       nursing workforce;

23                       “(B) experience and expertise in guiding  
24                       State-level nursing workforce centers;

1           “(C) experience in working with nursing  
2 workforce data;

3           “(D) expertise in analytical methods and  
4 tools appropriate for nursing workforce re-  
5 search; and

6           “(E) awareness of emerging topics, issues,  
7 and trends related to the nursing workforce.

8           “(4) ANALYSIS AND REPORTING.—Analysis and  
9 reporting carried out pursuant to a grant or con-  
10 tract under this subsection may include—

11           “(A) collaborating with nursing workforce  
12 centers to produce or deliver, with respect to  
13 the supply of nurses, the demand for nurses,  
14 and the capacity to educate and train the nurs-  
15 ing workforce—

16                   “(i) regional and national reports;

17                   “(ii) articles in peer-reviewed journals;

18                   “(iii) presentations at national and  
19 international conferences and meetings;  
20 and

21                   “(iv) policy briefs, fact sheets, articles,  
22 blogs, and other publications available in  
23 the public domain;

24           “(B) evaluating the programs and activi-  
25 ties of the nursing workforce centers overall;

1           “(C) developing evidence-based or evi-  
2           dence-informed strategies and best practices to  
3           alleviate nursing workforce shortages across  
4           States and regions; and

5           “(D) conducting rapid data analysis and  
6           short-term, issue-specific research.

7           “(5) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Technical as-  
8           sistance provided pursuant to this subsection may  
9           include—

10           “(A) providing technical assistance to  
11           nursing workforce centers on the collection,  
12           analysis, and reporting of standardized supply,  
13           demand, and education and training data to in-  
14           form analysis conducted pursuant to subsection  
15           (c)(1);

16           “(B) collaborating with nursing workforce  
17           centers to identify and deliver evidence-based or  
18           evidence-informed strategies to alleviate nursing  
19           shortages and the maldistribution of nurses;

20           “(C) providing online and in-person train-  
21           ing opportunities for nurses and other staff at  
22           nursing workforce centers; and

23           “(D) developing and maintaining a website  
24           that—

1 “(i) is accessible to grant and contract  
2 recipients under section 785 and this sec-  
3 tion;

4 “(ii) supports resources for the provi-  
5 sion of technical assistance under this sec-  
6 tion, such as—

7 “(I) evidence-based or evidence-  
8 informed educational materials, tools,  
9 recent findings of interest, and links  
10 to relevant resources; and

11 “(II) logistical and administrative  
12 information, such as online trainings,  
13 webinars, and publications; and

14 “(iii) includes a publicly accessible re-  
15 pository of webinars, tools, and resources.

16 “(6) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term  
17 ‘nursing workforce center’ means a nursing work-  
18 force center funded under section 785.”.