



To The Members of the United States Congress:

We, the undersigned, urge you to support [S. 1106](#) and [H.R. 1651 The National Nurse Act of 2017](#). This legislation would designate the Chief Nurse Officer (CNO) of the U.S. Public Health Service (PHS) as the "National Nurse for Public Health" to elevate the authority and visibility of this position. Conditions such as heart disease, cancer, obesity, and opioid addiction pose the single greatest threat to the health of Americans and our nation's economy. Nurses provide key services for the prevention and management of these conditions and this legislation is necessary to support further work needed to promote prevention, improve outcomes, and guide national, state and local efforts in addressing the nation's health.

Designating the CNO of the PHS to be uniquely known as the National Nurse for Public Health would be a practical, cost-effective step forward in publicly acknowledging the need for a focus on wellness and prevention. There is convincing evidence that the health of our country can be dramatically advanced by deploying our greatest and most trusted national health resource-America's 3.6 million nurses. This legislation would provide the nation with a trusted, professional nursing leadership position to enhance the nation's health prevention efforts.

The CNO/National Nurse for Public Health will partner with the Surgeon General and other PHS officials to help identify national health priorities. Another duty will be to encourage volunteerism of nurses and other health professionals to replicate evidence-based, community wellness projects that have demonstrated proven success in reducing the economic burden of healthcare. The CNO/National Nurse for Public Health will also assist in preparing the annual status report of the National Prevention, Health Promotion, and Public Health Council.

We, as organizations and individuals, support this legislation as a means to achieve the goals of better health for the nation leading to decreased health disparities and improved health literacy. We applaud your efforts in highlighting the important contribution of nurses and in your advocacy of improvement of the nation's health. We strongly urge your co-sponsorship of the National Nurse Act of 2017.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to working with you on this important issue. Please call upon us if we can be of further assistance as this bill moves forward.

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Air and Surface Transport Nurses Association
Alaska Nurses Association
Alliance for Nursing Informatics
American Academy of Preceptor Advancement
American Assisted Living Nurses Association
American Association for Men in Nursing
American Association of Community Colleges
American Association of Directors of Nursing Services
American Association of Heart Failure Nurses
American Association of Neuroscience Nurses
American Association of Nurse Assessment Coordination
American Association of Occupational Health Nurses
American Association of Women in Community Colleges
American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
American Federation of Teachers National
American Federation of Teachers-Oregon
American Holistic Nurses Association
American Medical Informatics Association
American Nurses Association
American Nurses Association-California
American Nurses Association-Illinois
American Nurses Association-Maine
American Nurses Association-Michigan
American Pediatric Surgical Nurses Association
American Psychiatric Nurses Association
American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses
American Society of Plastic Surgical Nurses
Asian American Pacific Islanders Nursing Association
Association for Radiologic and Imaging Nurses
Association of Black Nursing Faculty
Association of Community College Trustees
Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nursing
California Alliance for Retired Americans
California School-Based Health Alliance
Case Management Society of America
Central Oregon Labor Council AFL-CIO
CGFNS International Inc.
Colorado Hispanic Nurses Chapter of NAHN
Colorado Nurses Association
Developmental Disabilities Nurses Association
Duey's Place Assisted Living Facility
Exceptional Nurse
Florida Nurse Practitioner Network
Greater Passaic Valley Public Health Nurses Association
GVNA Healthcare, Inc.
Health Care Alternatives Inc. Arizona
Health Care for All California-Santa Clara County Chapter
Indiana State Nurses Association
Infusion Nurses Society
International Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners

International Society of Nurses in Genetics
International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses
JNESO District Council 1 IUOE AFL-CIO
Kansas Parish Nurse Ministry Inc.
MammaCare
Maverick Health
Montana Nurses Association
National Alaska Native American Indian Nurses Association
National Association for Health and Fitness
National Association of Hispanic Nurses (NAHN)
National Association of Neonatal Nurses
National Association of Neonatal Nurse Practitioners
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Black Nurses Association
National Coalition of Ethnic Minority Nurse Associations
National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners
National Federation of Nurses
National Gerontological Nursing Association
National Nurses in Business Association
National Nursing Network Organization
Nevada Nurses Association
New Jersey Association of Public Health Nurse Administrators
New Jersey State Nurses Association
New York State Public Employees Federation
North America Nursing Diagnosis Association (NANDA) International, Inc.
North Carolina Nurses Association
Nurse Practitioner Association New York State
Nurse Practitioners of Oregon
Nurses Who Vaccinate
Nutrition Support Nurses Practice Section of A.S.P.E.N.
NW Oregon Labor Council
Ohio Nurses Association
Oregon AFL-CIO
Oregon Alliance for Retired Americans
Oregon Center for Nursing
Oregon Council of Associate Degree Nursing Programs
Oregon Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals
Oregon Nurses Association
Oregon School Employees Association, AFT Local 6732
Organization for Associate Degree Nursing
Pennsylvania Coalition of Nurse Practitioners
Philippine Nurses Association of America
Physicians for Social Responsibility
Population Health Alliance
Portland Community College Board of Directors
Prevention Institute
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association
School-Based Health Alliance
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
Service Employees International Union Nurse Alliance of California
Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates

Society of Otorhinolaryngology and Head-Neck Nurses
Special Needs Pediatrics, Inc. Arizona
Texas Nurses Association
The American Association of Nurse Attorneys
The National Association Directors of Nursing Administration/ Long Term Care, Inc.
Transcultural Nursing Society
Truth About Nursing
United Nurses of America (AFSCME)
Visiting Nurse Associations of America (VNAA)
Washington State Nurses Association
West Virginia Nurses Association
Working Nurse

The following state legislative bodies have passed resolutions urging the US Congress to enact legislation for establishing a National Nurse:

Massachusetts General Court-2008*, 2013*
Oregon State Legislature-2009*
New Jersey State Assembly-2014*
New Jersey State Senate-2014*
New York State Assembly-2007*, 2012*
Vermont State Legislature-2008* 2014*