

February 28, 2019

19-085

SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL NURSE ACT OF 2019

PREPARED BY: Jeannie Moton, Executive Coordinator, Office of the President

APPROVED BY: Mark Mitsui, College President

REPORT: PCC recognizes that the rise in chronic preventable conditions affect our students' lives.

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.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board of Directors the Portland Community College Board support the National Nurse Act as presented in Exhibit A and endorse it by becoming a signatory on the Endorsement Page of the National Nurse for Public Health Website (<http://nationalnurse.org/endorsements.shtml>).

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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R.

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To designate the same individual serving as the Chief Nurse Officer of the Public Health Service as the National Nurse for Public Health.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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# A BILL

To designate the same individual serving as the Chief Nurse Officer of the Public Health Service as the 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 2019”.

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. 1712. NATIONAL NURSE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH.**

6 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The same individual des-  
7 ignated as the Chief Nurse Officer of the Public Health  
8 Service under section 205 shall also be designated by the  
9 Secretary as the National Nurse for Public Health.

10 “(b) AUTHORITY.—The National Nurse for Public  
11 Health shall have the authority and flexibility to carry out  
12 the following:

13 “(1) Provide leadership and coordination of  
14 Public Health Service nursing professional affairs  
15 for the Office of the Surgeon General and other  
16 agencies of the Public Health Service, including pro-  
17 viding representation for the Government of the  
18 United States at the Global Forum for Government  
19 Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officers and serving as  
20 a member of the Federal Nursing Service Council.

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

1           “(3) Provide guidance and advice to the Sur-  
2           geon General and the Nurse Professional Advisory  
3           Committee on matters such as standards, recruit-  
4           ment, retention, readiness, and career development  
5           of nurses employed by and contracted with agencies  
6           of the Public Health Service.

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

9           “(5) Provide guidance and leadership for activi-  
10          ties to promote the public health, including encour-  
11          aging nurses and other health professionals to be  
12          volunteers and developing projects that educate the  
13          public about and engage the public in prevention  
14          practices to achieve better health.

15          “(6) Provide guidance and leadership to encour-  
16          age nurses to engage in furthering their education in  
17          order to conduct nursing research, increase the  
18          awareness of evidence-based practice, and educate  
19          future nurses.

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

23          “(8) Prepare and publish a biennial report on  
24          the state of the Commissioned Corps of the Public  
25          Health Service Nurse Category.

1       “(c) NATIONAL HEALTH PRIORITIES—NATIONAL  
2 PREVENTION STRATEGY.—

3           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The National Nurse for  
4 Public Health, in cooperation with the Surgeon Gen-  
5 eral of the Public Health Service, heads of the agen-  
6 cies of the Public Health Service, States, and orga-  
7 nizations that represent health professionals, shall  
8 continue to participate in the identification of na-  
9 tional health priorities.

10          “(2) ADDRESSING NATIONAL HEALTH PRIOR-  
11 ITIES.—The National Nurse for Public Health, in  
12 addressing national health priorities, shall encourage  
13 volunteerism of nurses and other individuals, and  
14 strengthen the relationship between Government  
15 agencies and health-related national organizations.

16          “(3) COMMUNITY-BASED PROJECTS.—

17           “(A) IMPLEMENTATION.—In addressing  
18 national health priorities, the National Nurse  
19 for Public Health shall—

20                   “(i) provide guidance and coordination  
21 on recommended activities to organiza-  
22 tions;

23                   “(ii) acknowledge successful programs  
24 and encourage their replication;

1           “(iii) promote the dissemination of  
2           evidence-based practice in educating the  
3           public on health promotion and disease  
4           prevention activities;

5           “(iv) encourage practicing nurses and  
6           other health professionals, including retired  
7           health professionals and students enrolled  
8           in health professional programs, to partici-  
9           pate in health promotion activities and rep-  
10          licate successful health promotion activities  
11          in their local communities; and

12          “(v) collaborate with Federal agencies  
13          to monitor activities being conducted  
14          through the collection and evaluation of  
15          data to determine if national health prior-  
16          ities are being addressed.

17          “(B) OUTREACH AND EDUCATION.—In  
18          conducting outreach and education under sub-  
19          section (b)(4), the National Nurse for Public  
20          Health shall give priority to the inclusion of di-  
21          verse approaches, including social media cam-  
22          paigns, to address national health priorities.

23          “(C) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—  
24          The National Nurse for Public Health shall dis-  
25          seminate information to governmental agencies,

1 schools, and community-based, nonprofit orga-  
2 nizations interested in health promotion and  
3 improving public health through community ac-  
4 tion.”.