



To the Members of the 116th Congress:

We, the undersigned, urge you to support [H.R. 1597/ S. 696](#) The National Nurse Act of 2019. 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 4 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 2019.

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.

Teri Mills MS, RN, CNE
teri@nationalnurse.org
President National Nursing Network Organization
503-320-2385
<http://nationalnurse.org>

American Assisted Living Nurses Association
American Association of Post-Acute Nursing Care
American Federation of Teachers-Oregon
American Medical Informatics Association
American Nephrology Nurses Association
American Pediatric Surgical Nurses Association
American Psychiatric Nurses Association
Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nursing
California Alliance for Retired Americans
California School-Based Health Alliance
CGFNS International Inc.
Developmental Disabilities Nurses Association
Duey's Place Assisted Living Facility
Exceptional Nurse
GVNA Healthcare, Inc.
Health Care Alternatives Inc. Arizona
Health Care for All California-Santa Clara County Chapter
Health Care for All Oregon
Infusion Nurses Society
International Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners
International Society of Plastic and Aesthetic Nurses
International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses
Kansas Parish Nurse Ministry Inc.
Maryland Academy of Advanced Practice Clinicians
Maverick Health
National Association for Health and Fitness
National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners
National Nursing Network Organization
Nebraska School Nurses Association
New York State Public Employees Federation
North America Nursing Diagnosis Association (NANDA) International, Inc.
Nurses Who Vaccinate
NW Oregon Labor Council
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 School Employees Association, AFT Local 6732
Physicians for Social Responsibility
Portland Community College Board of Directors\
Prevention Institute
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association
School-Based Health Alliance
Society of Otorhinolaryngology and Head-Neck Nurses, Inc.
Special Needs Pediatrics, Inc. Arizona
The National Association Directors of Nursing Administration/ Long Term Care, Inc.
Transcultural Nursing Society
Truth About Nursing

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*