

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3173

To create a pilot program to increase the number of graduate educated nurse faculty to meet the future need for qualified nurses, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 30, 2005

Mrs. MCCARTHY (for herself, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. McNULTY, Ms. HERSETH, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. OWENS, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. ALLEN, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. LEACH, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, and Mrs. CAPPS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To create a pilot program to increase the number of graduate educated nurse faculty to meet the future need for qualified 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 “Nurse Faculty Higher
5 Education Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

1 (1) In their 2004 survey of 561 schools of nurs-
2 ing with baccalaureate and graduate programs, the
3 American Association of College of Nursing found
4 that U.S. nursing schools turned away 32,797 quali-
5 fied applicants. The National League for Nursing
6 estimates that in the 2003–2004 academic year, all
7 types of RN-preparation programs could not accom-
8 modate over 125,000 qualified applications. Insuffi-
9 cient faculty was the top reason cited by nursing
10 schools for not accepting all qualified applicants.

11 (2) The mean ages of doctorally prepared nurse
12 faculty holding the ranks of professor, associate pro-
13 fessor, and assistant professor are 56.8, 54.6 and
14 50.8 respectively and the average age of doctorally
15 prepared faculty is 54.2 years.

16 (3) The average age at retirement of nurse fac-
17 ulty is 62.5 years and it is expected that 200 to 300
18 doctorally prepared faculty will be eligible for retire-
19 ment each year from 2005 through 2012 just as
20 more than 1 million replacement nurses will be need-
21 ed.

22 (4) The current faculty shortage will be greatly
23 compounded in the next few years by the retirement
24 of many of the current nurse faculty in the United
25 States.

1 (5) Nursing salaries for faculty are not com-
2 petitive when compared to similarly educated nurses
3 in clinical or administrative positions, as the average
4 salary of a master’s prepared nurse faculty member
5 in 2003 was \$60,357 compared to \$80,697 for a
6 master’s prepared nurse practitioner working in an
7 emergency department.

8 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.**

9 Title VII of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
10 U.S.C. 1133 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
11 the following new part:

12 **“PART E—NURSE FACULTY PILOT PROJECT**

13 **“SEC. 771. PURPOSES.**

14 “‘The purposes of this part are to create a pilot pro-
15 gram—

16 “(1) to provide scholarships to qualified nurses
17 in pursuit of an advanced degree with the goal of be-
18 coming faculty members in an accredited nursing
19 program; and

20 “(2) to provide grants to partnerships between
21 accredited schools of nursing and hospitals or health
22 facilities to fund release time for qualified nurse em-
23 ployees, so that those employees can earn a salary
24 while obtaining an advanced degree in nursing with
25 the goal of becoming nurse faculty.

1 **“SEC. 772. ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED.**

2 “(a) **COMPETITIVE GRANTS AUTHORIZED.**—The Sec-
3 retary may, on a competitive basis, award grants to, and
4 enter into contracts and cooperative agreements with,
5 partnerships composed of an accredited school of nursing
6 at an institution of higher education and a hospital or
7 health facility to establish not more than 5 pilot projects
8 to enable such hospital or health facility to retain its staff
9 of experienced nurses while providing a mechanism to have
10 these individuals become, through an accelerated nursing
11 education program, faculty members of an accredited
12 school of nursing.

13 “(b) **DURATION; EVALUATION AND DISSEMINA-**
14 **TION.**—

15 “(1) **DURATION.**—Grants under this part shall
16 be awarded for a period of 3 to 5 years.

17 “(2) **MANDATORY EVALUATION AND DISSEMI-**
18 **NATION.**—Grants under this part shall be primarily
19 used for evaluation, and dissemination to other insti-
20 tutions of higher education, of the information ob-
21 tained through the activities described in section sec-
22 tion 771(2).

23 “(c) **CONSIDERATIONS IN MAKING AWARDS.**—In
24 awarding grants and entering into contracts and coopera-
25 tive agreements under this section, the Secretary shall
26 consider the following:

1 “(1) GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.—Providing
2 an equitable geographic distribution of such grants.

3 “(2) RURAL AND URBAN AREAS.—Distributing
4 such grants to urban and rural areas.

5 “(3) RANGE AND TYPE OF INSTITUTION.—En-
6 suring that the activities to be assisted are developed
7 for a range of types and sizes of institutions of high-
8 er education.

9 “(4) PRIOR EXPERIENCE OR EXCEPTIONAL
10 PROGRAMS.—Institutions of higher education with
11 demonstrated prior experience in, or exceptional pro-
12 grams for preparation of nurse educators or nursing
13 faculty (or both).

14 “(d) USES OF FUNDS.—Funds made available by
15 grant, contract, or cooperative agreement under this part
16 may be used—

17 “(1) to develop a new national demonstration
18 initiative to align nursing education with the emerg-
19 ing challenges of healthcare delivery; and

20 “(2) for any one or more of the following inno-
21 vations in educational programs:

22 “(A) to develop a clinical simulation lab-
23 oratory in a hospital, health facility, or accred-
24 ited school of nursing;

1 “(B) to purchase distance learning tech-
2 nologies;

3 “(C) to fund release time for qualified
4 nurses enrolled in the graduate nursing pro-
5 gram;

6 “(D) to provide for faculty salaries; and

7 “(E) to collect and analyze data on edu-
8 cational outcomes.

9 **“SEC. 773. APPLICATIONS.**

10 “Each partnership desiring to receive a grant, con-
11 tract, or cooperative agreement under this part shall sub-
12 mit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such
13 manner, and accompanied by such information as the Sec-
14 retary may require. Each application shall include assur-
15 ances that—

16 “(1) the individuals enrolled in the program will
17 be qualified nurses in pursuit of a master’s or doc-
18 toral degree in nursing and have a contractual obli-
19 gation with the hospital or health facility that is in
20 partnership with the institution of higher education;

21 “(2) the hospital or health facility of employ-
22 ment would be the clinical site for the accredited
23 school of nursing program;

24 “(3) individuals will also maintain their employ-
25 ment on a part time basis to the hospital or health

1 facility that allowed them to participate in the pro-
2 gram, and will receive an income from the hospital
3 or health facility, as a part time employee, and re-
4 lease times or flexible schedules to accommodate
5 their class schedule.

6 “(4) upon completion of the program, individ-
7 uals agree to teach for 2 years in an accredited
8 school of nursing for each year of support the indi-
9 vidual received under this program; and

10 **“SEC. 774. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

11 “There are authorized to be appropriated for this
12 part not more than \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2006 and
13 such sums as may be necessary for each of the 5 suc-
14 ceeding fiscal years.

15 **“SEC. 775. DEFINITION.**

16 “For purposes of this part, the term ‘health facility’
17 means an Indian Health Service health service center, a
18 Native Hawaiian health center, a hospital, a Federally
19 qualified health center, a rural health clinic, a nursing
20 home, a home health agency, a hospice program, a public
21 health clinic, a State or local department of public health,
22 a skilled nursing facility, or ambulatory surgical center.”.

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