

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2384

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

MAY 17, 2007

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York (for herself and Mr. BOUSTANY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

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:

8 (1) In their 2006–2007 survey of 722 schools
9 of nursing with baccalaureate and graduate pro-

1 grams, the American Association of Colleges of
2 Nursing found that U.S. nursing schools turned
3 away 42,866 qualified applicants. The National
4 League for Nursing (NLN) released a preliminary
5 report on December 9, 2005 which estimated that
6 schools of nursing with entry-level baccalaureate, as-
7 sociate, and diploma programs were forced to reject
8 more than 147,000 qualified applications for 2005.
9 This was an 18 percent increase over last year's fig-
10 ures.

11 (2) In 2006, the mean ages of doctorally pre-
12 pared nurse faculty holding the ranks of professor,
13 associate professor, and assistant professor are 58.6,
14 55.8, and 51.6 respectively. For master's degree-pre-
15 pared nurse faculty, the average ages for professors,
16 associate professors, and assistant professors were
17 56.5, 54.8, and 50.1 years, respectively.

18 (3) The average age at retirement of nurse fac-
19 ulty is 62.5 years and it is expected that 200 to 300
20 doctorally prepared faculty will be eligible for retire-
21 ment each year from 2007 through 2012 just as
22 more than 1 million replacement nurses will be need-
23 ed.

24 (4) The current faculty shortage will be greatly
25 compounded in the next few years by the retirement

1 of many of the current nurse faculty in the United
2 States. Without sufficient nurse faculty, schools of
3 nursing cannot expand enrollments, and the nursing
4 shortage will continue to cripple our nation's health
5 care delivery system.

6 (5) Nursing salaries for faculty are not com-
7 petitive when compared to similarly educated nurses
8 in clinical or administrative positions, as the average
9 salary of a master's prepared nurse faculty member
10 in 2005 was \$66,925 compared to \$84,835 for a
11 master's prepared nurse practitioner working in an
12 emergency department.

13 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.**

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

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

18 **“SEC. 771. PURPOSES.**

19 “The purposes of this part are to create a pilot pro-
20 gram—

21 “(1) to provide scholarships to qualified nurses
22 in pursuit of an advanced degree with the goal of be-
23 coming faculty members in an accredited nursing
24 program; and

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

7 **“SEC. 772. ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED.**

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

19 “(b) DURATION; EVALUATION AND DISSEMINA-
20 TION.—

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

23 “(2) MANDATORY EVALUATION AND DISSEMI-
24 NATION.—Grants under this part shall be primarily
25 used for evaluation, and dissemination to other insti-

1 tutions of higher education, of the information ob-
2 tained through the activities described in section
3 771(2).

4 “(c) CONSIDERATIONS IN MAKING AWARDS.—In
5 awarding grants and entering into contracts and coopera-
6 tive agreements under this section, the Secretary shall
7 consider the following:

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

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

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

16 “(4) PRIOR EXPERIENCE OR EXCEPTIONAL
17 PROGRAMS.—Institutions of higher education with
18 demonstrated prior experience in providing advanced
19 nursing education programs to prepare nurses inter-
20 ested in pursuing a faculty role.

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

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

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

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

9 “(B) to purchase distance learning tech-
10 nologies;

11 “(C) to fund release time for qualified
12 nurses enrolled in the graduate nursing pro-
13 gram;

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

15 “(E) to collect and analyze data on edu-
16 cational outcomes.

17 **“SEC. 773. APPLICATIONS.**

18 “Each partnership desiring to receive a grant, con-
19 tract, or cooperative agreement under this part shall sub-
20 mit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such
21 manner, and accompanied by such information as the Sec-
22 retary may require. Each application shall include assur-
23 ances that—

24 “(1) the individuals enrolled in the program will
25 be qualified nurses in pursuit of a master’s or doc-

1 toral degree in nursing and have a contractual obli-
2 gation with the hospital or health facility that is in
3 partnership with the institution of higher education;

4 “(2) the hospital or health facility of employ-
5 ment would be the clinical site for the accredited
6 school of nursing program;

7 “(3) individuals will also maintain their employ-
8 ment on a part time basis to the hospital or health
9 facility that allowed them to participate in the pro-
10 program, and will receive an income from the hospital
11 or health facility, as a part time employee, and re-
12 lease times or flexible schedules to accommodate
13 their class schedule.

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

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

19 “There are authorized to be appropriated for this
20 part not more than \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2008 and
21 such sums as may be necessary for each of the 5 suc-
22 ceeding fiscal years.

23 **“SEC. 775. DEFINITION.**

24 “For purposes of this part, the term ‘health facility’
25 means an Indian Health Service health service center, a

1 Native Hawaiian health center, a hospital, a Federally
2 qualified health center, a rural health clinic, a nursing
3 home, a home health agency, a hospice program, a public
4 health clinic, a State or local department of public health,
5 a skilled nursing facility, or ambulatory surgical center.”.

○