

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1604

To increase the number of well-educated nurses, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 13, 2007

Mrs. CLINTON (for herself and Mr. SMITH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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## A BILL

To increase the number of well-educated 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 “Nursing Education  
5 and Quality of Health Care Act of 2007”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The current nursing workforce is the largest  
9 group of healthcare providers in the United States.

1           (2) There will be a need for 1,200,000 new and  
2 replacement nurses by 2014.

3           (3) Over 38,000 qualified applicants were  
4 turned away from entry-level nursing programs lead-  
5 ing to a baccalaureate degree in 2006. This number  
6 increases to 147,000 when all schools of nursing are  
7 taken into account.

8           (4) Insufficient numbers of faculty is the pri-  
9 mary reason given by schools of nursing for not ac-  
10 cepting qualified applicants.

11           (5) The average age of doctorally-prepared  
12 nurse faculty is almost 56 years old.

13           (6) Nurses are the healthcare providers most  
14 likely to intercept medication errors before the errors  
15 reach patients and result in adverse events.

16           (7) Employing a greater proportion of more  
17 highly educated nurses may reduce the rates of pa-  
18 tient mortality.

19 **SEC. 3. RURAL NURSES TRAINING GRANT PROGRAM.**

20           Part D of title VIII of the Public Health Service Act  
21 (42 U.S.C. 296p) is amended by adding at the end the  
22 following:

23 **“SEC. 832. RURAL NURSES TRAINING GRANT PROGRAM.**

24           “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award  
25 grants to, or enter into contracts with, eligible entities for

1 the purpose of educating nurses to serve in rural areas  
2 and areas of nurse specialty shortage.

3 “(b) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity that receives  
4 a grant under this section shall use grant funds to develop  
5 distance learning education by—

6 “(1) providing technology infrastructure to en-  
7 hance or increase—

8 “(A) broadband connectivity; and

9 “(B) education rooms wired for the Inter-  
10 net;

11 “(2) providing technology infrastructure for a  
12 video conferencing network;

13 “(3) recruiting, training, and supporting com-  
14 munity-based faculty for classroom and clinical  
15 training; or

16 “(4) recruiting and supporting community-  
17 based sites for clinical training.

18 “(c) ANALYSES.—Not later than 1 year after the Sec-  
19 retary awards grants under subsection (a), and annually  
20 thereafter, the Secretary, working with the Administrator  
21 of the Health Resources and Services Administration and  
22 appropriate nursing agencies, shall collect and perform  
23 analyses on the number of nurses in the United States  
24 to track rural nursing trends.

1       “(d) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date  
2 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall generate an  
3 annual report about the status of the nursing workforce  
4 in the United States and shall disseminate the report as  
5 the Secretary determines appropriate.

6       “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
7 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
8 such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years  
9 2008 through 2012.”.

10 **SEC. 4. NURSE FACULTY DEVELOPMENT.**

11       (a) NURSE FACULTY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.—  
12 Part D of title VIII of the Public Health Service Act (42  
13 U.S.C. 296p et seq.) is amended by inserting after section  
14 832 (as added by section 3) the following:

15 **“SEC. 833. NURSE FACULTY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.**

16       “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through  
17 the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services  
18 Administration, shall award grants to eligible entities for  
19 the establishment and operation of demonstration projects  
20 that will expand the numbers of nurse faculty within  
21 schools of nursing, including—

22               “(1) developing recruitment programs for  
23 nurses with academic credentials for faculty status  
24 who are not teaching at the time;

1           “(2) offering scholarships that facilitate the re-  
2           turn of registered nurses to a school of nursing on  
3           a part-time basis for graduate education that leads  
4           to a career in nursing education;

5           “(3) providing additional education to enable  
6           nurses with graduate degrees to serve as faculty by  
7           obtaining teaching certificates;

8           “(4) developing accelerated doctoral programs  
9           that will facilitate entry in a nursing faculty posi-  
10          tion;

11          “(5) developing online continuing education  
12          courses and practice teaching opportunities for nurse  
13          faculty; and

14          “(6) developing research internships and fellow-  
15          ships for nursing students at academic medical cen-  
16          ters to foster interest in academic research.

17          “(b) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date  
18          of enactment of the Nursing Education and Quality of  
19          Health Care Act of 2007, the Comptroller General of the  
20          United States shall prepare and submit a report to Con-  
21          gress that—

22                 “(1) addresses the causes of the nurse faculty  
23                 shortage; and



1           “(1) increasing and expanding pipeline pro-  
2           grams, including—

3                   “(A) mathematics and science programs;

4                   “(B) Nurse Medical Academy of Science  
5                   and Health (MASH) Camp and other health ca-  
6                   reer pipeline programs for middle school and  
7                   secondary school students tied to higher edu-  
8                   cation curricula;

9                   “(C) nurse mentor programs that provide  
10                  experience for secondary school students in clin-  
11                  ical settings to learn about the nursing profes-  
12                  sion;

13                  “(D) training for middle school and sec-  
14                  ondary school guidance counselors; and

15                  “(E) programs that attract nontraditional  
16                  nursing students, including minorities and men;

17           “(2) supporting a web-based healthcare work-  
18           force development system that will be a database-  
19           driven website to connect employers, educators, rural  
20           communities, and students with the nursing pipeline  
21           and recruitment programs described in this section;  
22           and

23           “(3) increasing the program capacity of acceler-  
24           ated registered nurse programs that recruit individ-  
25           uals with baccalaureate degrees in other fields into

1       baccalaureate or graduate degree nursing programs  
2       that serve rural communities, by—

3               “(A) increasing the number of faculty;

4               “(B) increasing clinical training sites; and

5               “(C) providing financial incentives, includ-  
6       ing loan forgiveness and tuition assistance for  
7       nurses who practice in rural areas.

8       “(b) AWARD BASIS.—

9               “(1) AWARD BASIS FOR FIRST 2 YEARS.—For  
10       each of the first 2 fiscal years for which funds are  
11       appropriated under subsection (c), the Secretary  
12       shall, to the extent practicable—

13               “(A) use 80 percent of such funds to  
14       award grants under this section to carry out the  
15       activity described in subsection (a)(3); and

16               “(B) use 20 percent of such funds to  
17       award grants under this section to carry out the  
18       activities described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of  
19       subsection (a).

20               “(2) AWARD BASIS FOR SUBSEQUENT YEARS.—

21       For each fiscal year following the first 2 fiscal years  
22       for which funds are appropriated under subsection  
23       (c), the Secretary shall, in awarding grants under  
24       this section, arrange for such distribution of funds  
25       and grants to carry out the various activities de-

1 scribed in subsection (a) as the Secretary determines  
2 appropriate.

3 “(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
4 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
5 such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years  
6 2008 through 2012.”.

7 **SEC. 6. NURSING AND THE QUALITY OF HEALTHCARE.**

8 Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act (42  
9 U.S.C. 296 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the  
10 following:

11 **“PART J—NURSING AND IMPROVING**  
12 **HEALTHCARE**

13 **“SEC. 861. LINKING NURSING EDUCATION AND QUALITY**  
14 **OUTCOMES PROGRAM.**

15 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in collaboration  
16 with the Administrator of the Health Resources and Serv-  
17 ices Administration and the Director of the Agency for  
18 Healthcare Research and Quality, shall award grants to  
19 entities that meet the requirements of subsection (b) to  
20 enable the entities to carry out demonstration projects  
21 that advance the education, delivery, or measurement of  
22 quality and patient safety in nursing practice.

23 “(b) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a dem-  
24 onstration project grant under this section, an entity  
25 shall—

1           “(1) be a school of nursing, a nursing center,  
2           an academic health center, a State or local govern-  
3           ment, or any other public or private nonprofit entity  
4           determined appropriate by the Secretary;

5           “(2) submit to the Secretary an application in  
6           accordance with section 802;

7           “(3) form a partnership with 1 or more eligible  
8           entities; and

9           “(4) submit a plan to the Secretary that  
10          assures grant funds received under this section will  
11          be used to support the implementation and evalua-  
12          tion of healthcare quality improvement activities that  
13          include—

14                 “(A) with respect to healthcare systems,  
15                 activities relating to improving patient safety,  
16                 timeliness of care, effectiveness of care, equity  
17                 and efficiency of care, and patient-centeredness;  
18                 or

19                 “(B) with respect to patients, activities, in-  
20                 cluding activities relating to staying healthy,  
21                 getting well, living with illness or disability, and  
22                 coping with end of life issues.

23          “(c) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under sub-  
24          section (a), the Secretary shall give priority to entities that  
25          will carry out 1 or more of the following:

1           “(1) IMPLEMENTATION.—Implementing initia-  
2 tives in professional nursing education to enhance  
3 patient safety efforts through evidence-based prac-  
4 tice and quality improvement strategies by—

5           “(A) developing partnerships between ac-  
6 credited schools of nursing and health care fa-  
7 cilities, as defined in section 801, to educate  
8 registered nurses in clinical leadership, inter-  
9 disciplinary team management, systems admin-  
10 istration, outcomes and risk management, and  
11 education, for implementation in multiple  
12 healthcare settings; and

13           “(B) providing scholarships for registered  
14 professional nurses to pursue advanced nursing  
15 education in accordance with subsection (a).

16           “(2) EDUCATION.—Integrating quality and  
17 safety competencies into nursing education programs  
18 by—

19           “(A) disseminating patient safety edu-  
20 cation content to a nurse faculty administrator  
21 to integrate quality competencies into each  
22 school of nursing that are consistent with tech-  
23 nical standards that are developed or adopted  
24 by voluntary consensus standards bodies under  
25 section 12(d) of the National Technology

1           Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995 (15  
2           U.S.C. 272 note); and

3           “(B) developing ongoing web-based mod-  
4           ules for continued nurse faculty education to  
5           bring research evidence into practice not later  
6           than 2 years after receiving a grant under this  
7           section; and

8           “(3) provide continuing education for practicing  
9           nurses, including—

10           “(A) developing web-based modules related  
11           to patient safety, including topics of evidenced-  
12           based practice, professional communication, pa-  
13           tient or family-centered care, systems thinking,  
14           informatics, collaborative practice, medication,  
15           and practice error; and

16           “(B) developing systems for the dissemina-  
17           tion of continuing education through facility-  
18           based staff development and orientation.

19           “(d) EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall award  
20           grants to entities described in subsection (b) to collect  
21           data and study the potential benefits of basic and ad-  
22           vanced nursing education levels or certification status in  
23           the efforts to promote quality improvement strategies and  
24           enhance patient outcomes and cost saving measures, by—

1           “(1) compiling and analyzing quality indicator  
2 data from existing databases and other sources to  
3 evaluate relationships between basic and advanced  
4 nursing education levels or certification status on  
5 nursing sensitive indicators and quality outcomes;

6           “(2) working in consultation with State depart-  
7 ments of health or other nonprofit patient safety or-  
8 ganizations; or

9           “(3) demonstrating the cost savings and sus-  
10 tainability of the demonstration projects.

11          “(e) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date  
12 of enactment of the Nursing Education and Quality of  
13 Health Care Act of 2007, the Secretary shall submit a  
14 report to Congress on the results of the program under  
15 this section.

16          “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
17 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
18 such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years  
19 2008 through 2012.”.

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