

National Nursing Workforce Center Act

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Endorsements: AARP, American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing, American Association of Neuroscience Nurses, American Association of Nurse Practitioners, American Association of Occupational Health Nurses, American Nephrology Nurses Association, American Nurses Association, Association of Women's Health, Obstetric & Neonatal Nurses, Delaware Healthcare Association, Delaware Nurses Association, National Association of Neonatal Nurses, National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health, National Forum of State Nursing Workforce Centers, Oncology Nursing Society, Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, Philippine Nurses Association of America, Inc., Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association (PCNA) Advocacy Committee

America's Nursing Workforce Shortage

As the nation's largest healthcare profession, nurses play a vital role in improving health outcomes in virtually every community. However, the demand for nurses is greatly outpacing supply, and by 2027, the country will face a 10% shortage of registered nurses. Fewer practicing nurses can lead to delays in treatments and procedures, longer hospital stays, and increased adverse patient events. Improved federal and state coordination is clearly needed to monitor nursing shortages, coordinate strategies to alleviate the pressures on the nursing workforce, and advise policymakers, health care leaders, and educators to better address the shortage.

Enhancing Nursing Workforce Centers Will Help

Nursing workforce centers are hubs that advance nursing education, practice, and workforce development at the state and local levels. These centers implement workforce programs, conduct localized research, and publish reports related to supply, demand, and educational capacity of the nursing workforce in their respective state. The 49 existing nursing workforce centers help communities understand the root causes, emerging trends, and geographic distribution of nursing shortages, allowing them to more effectively target sound interventions. However, most nursing workforce centers report insufficient funding and lack of technical capabilities as major barriers to fully supporting their state's nursing workforce.

The ***National Nursing Workforce Center Act*** would combat the nursing shortage by increasing collaboration between the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and the 49 state nursing workforce centers to equip communities with the tailored resources, education, and training they need to recruit and retain nurses. Specifically, the bill would do the following:

- Establish a national nursing workforce research and technical assistance center by making a small technical correction to HRSA's existing authority;
- Establish a pilot program through HRSA to improve the financial stability of state-based nursing workforce centers, which often report underfunding and lack of technical capabilities; and
- Publicize reports assessing the impact of this partnership and if and how it should be expanded nationwide.

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