

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To amend the Public Health Service Act to support and stabilize the existing nursing workforce, establish programs to increase the number of nurses, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER (for herself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. CRAMER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to support and stabilize the existing nursing workforce, establish programs to increase the number of 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 “National Nursing
5 Workforce Center Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. STATE NURSING WORKFORCE CENTERS.**

7 Title VII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.
8 292 et seq.) is amended—

1 (1) by redesignating part G (42 U.S.C. 295j et
2 seq.) as part H; and

3 (2) by inserting after part F the following new
4 part:

5 **“PART G—NURSING WORKFORCE CENTERS**

6 **“SEC. 785. STATE AND REGIONAL NURSING WORKFORCE**

7 **CENTER DATA COLLECTION PILOT PRO-**

8 **GRAM.**

9 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may carry out a
10 2-year pilot program to establish new or enhance existing
11 State-based nursing workforce centers, evaluate the im-
12 pact of State-based nursing workforce centers on out-
13 comes, and assess the feasibility of nursing workforce pub-
14 lic-private partnerships. The Secretary shall begin imple-
15 mentation of such pilot program not later than 1 year
16 after the date of enactment of the National Nursing Work-
17 force Center Act of 2025 .

18 “(b) GRANT TERMS.—

19 “(1) TERM.—The term of a grant awarded
20 under the pilot program under subsection (a) shall
21 be 2 years.

22 “(2) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—As a condi-
23 tion on receipt of a grant under the pilot program
24 under subsection (a), the Secretary shall require the
25 applicant to agree, with respect to costs to be in-

1 curred by the applicant in carrying out the activities
2 funded through the grant, to make available non-
3 Federal contributions (in cash or in kind) toward
4 such costs in an amount that is equal to not less
5 than \$1 for each \$4 of Federal funds provided
6 through the grant. Such contributions may be made
7 directly or through donations from public or private
8 entities.

9 “(c) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a grant
10 under this section, an entity shall be—

11 “(1) a State agency;

12 “(2) a State board of nursing;

13 “(3) an organization that is exempt from tax-
14 ation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Rev-
15 enue Act of 1986;

16 “(4) a community-based organization;

17 “(5) a school of nursing (as defined in section
18 801); or

19 “(6) another type of school or program deter-
20 mined by the Secretary to be an eligible entity for
21 purposes of this section.

22 “(d) EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION.—In awarding
23 grants under this section, the Secretary shall ensure, to
24 the greatest extent possible, that such grants are equitably

1 distributed among the geographical regions of the United
2 States.

3 “(e) PRIORITY.—In selecting the eligible entity to be
4 awarded a grant under this section for a nursing work-
5 force center in a particular State, the Secretary shall give
6 priority to eligible entities that—

7 “(1) propose to provide statewide services;

8 “(2) have expertise in the State’s nursing work-
9 force issues;

10 “(3) have a history of convening entities to ad-
11 dress nursing workforce issues; and

12 “(4) have partnerships with entities that tradi-
13 tionally educate and employ the State’s nurses.

14 “(f) USE OF FUNDS.—A nursing workforce center
15 supported under this section may use funds provided
16 under this section for the following statewide activities:

17 “(1) Conducting comprehensive analysis of and
18 research on—

19 “(A) existing State nursing workforce data
20 and gaps in such data;

21 “(B) 2- and 4-year nursing education pro-
22 grams, including with respect to—

23 “(i) faculty capacity and pay;

24 “(ii) enrollment, retention, and grad-
25 uation;

1 “(iii) services for nursing students
2 and the outcomes of such services;

3 “(iv) facility needs; and

4 “(v) clinical placement capacity;

5 “(C) State-specific scholarships, grants,
6 and financial aid; and

7 “(D) factors contributing to retention and
8 recruitment challenges and to nurses leaving
9 the workplace or profession.

10 “(2) Conducting strategic nursing workforce
11 planning with employers across all work settings and
12 nursing education.

13 “(3) Conducting focused research on trends in
14 nursing shortages, including the fiscal and clinical
15 outcomes of contract nursing.

16 “(4) Establishing and implementing programs
17 to—

18 “(A) support and retain faculty to increase
19 enrollment in schools of nursing;

20 “(B) recruit and retain nurses in all set-
21 tings where nurses practice;

22 “(C) support leadership development;

23 “(D) prepare the nursing workforce to ad-
24 dress social determinants of health and health
25 inequities;

1 “(E) prepare nurses for public health crisis
2 and pandemic response; and

3 “(F) assist individuals in obtaining edu-
4 cation and training required to enter the nurs-
5 ing profession, and advance within such profes-
6 sion, such as by providing career counseling and
7 mentoring.

8 “(g) REPORTS.—Not later than one year after the
9 date on which the first grant is awarded under the pilot
10 program under subsection (a), and annually thereafter,
11 the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the
12 grants awarded under such pilot program during the year
13 covered by the report. Each such report shall include—

14 “(1) a description of initiatives to study the
15 unique characteristics of State nursing workforces,
16 and efforts to increase the number of new nurses,
17 recruit nurses to the nursing profession, and retain
18 nurses in the workplace;

19 “(2) impact data on nurses served by nursing
20 workforce centers, including demographic informa-
21 tion of the individuals served, the number of such in-
22 dividuals, and the types of services provided;

23 “(3) the effectiveness of establishing formal
24 public-private relationships for purposes of under-

1 standing the national nursing workforce through im-
2 proved data collection and standardization;

3 “(4) data on continuous evaluation and quality
4 improvement, and other relevant data as determined
5 by the Secretary; and

6 “(5) the Secretary’s recommendations and best
7 practices for—

8 “(A) reducing shortages among different
9 nursing specialties;

10 “(B) reducing shortages in rural and un-
11 derserved areas;

12 “(C) improving geographical distribution of
13 the nursing workforce; and

14 “(D) reducing shortages among different
15 types of nursing employers.

16 “(h) FUNDING.—From the amounts appropriated to
17 the Health Resources and Services Administration for
18 workforce initiatives, the Secretary may use up to
19 \$1,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 and 2027 for
20 purposes of carrying out this section.”.

21 **SEC. 3. STATE AND REGIONAL CENTERS FOR HEALTH**
22 **WORKFORCE ANALYSIS.**

23 (a) EXPANSION OF COVERED PROGRAMS.—Section
24 761(c)(1)(A) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.

1 294n(c)(1)(A)) is amended by striking “under this title”
2 and inserting “under this Act”.

3 (b) ANALYSIS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Sec-
4 tion 761(c) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.
5 294n(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

6 “(3) MINIMUM REQUIREMENT.—At least one
7 grant or contract awarded under this subsection may
8 be awarded to an eligible entity that demonstrates—

9 “(A) a mission to advance and support the
10 nursing workforce;

11 “(B) experience and expertise in guiding
12 State-level nursing workforce centers;

13 “(C) experience in working with nursing
14 workforce data;

15 “(D) expertise in analytical methods and
16 tools appropriate for nursing workforce re-
17 search; and

18 “(E) awareness of emerging topics, issues,
19 and trends related to the nursing workforce.

20 “(4) ANALYSIS AND REPORTING.—Analysis and
21 reporting carried out pursuant to a grant or con-
22 tract under this subsection may include—

23 “(A) collaborating with nursing workforce
24 centers to produce or deliver, with respect to
25 the supply of nurses, the demand for nurses,

1 and the capacity to educate and train the nurs-
2 ing workforce—

3 “(i) regional and national reports;

4 “(ii) articles in peer-reviewed journals;

5 “(iii) presentations at national and
6 international conferences and meetings;

7 and

8 “(iv) policy briefs, fact sheets, articles,
9 blogs, and other publications available in
10 the public domain;

11 “(B) evaluating the programs and activi-
12 ties of the nursing workforce centers overall;

13 “(C) developing evidence-based or evi-
14 dence-informed strategies and best practices to
15 alleviate nursing workforce shortages across
16 States and regions; and

17 “(D) conducting rapid data analysis and
18 short-term, issue-specific research.

19 “(5) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Technical as-
20 sistance provided pursuant to this subsection may
21 include—

22 “(A) providing technical assistance to
23 nursing workforce centers on the collection,
24 analysis, and reporting of standardized supply,
25 demand, and education and training data to in-

1 form analysis conducted pursuant to this sub-
2 section;

3 “(B) collaborating with nursing workforce
4 centers to identify and deliver evidence-based or
5 evidence-informed strategies to alleviate nursing
6 shortages and the maldistribution of nurses;

7 “(C) providing online and in-person train-
8 ing opportunities for nurses and other staff at
9 nursing workforce centers; and

10 “(D) developing and maintaining a website
11 that—

12 “(i) is accessible to grant and contract
13 recipients under section 785 and this sec-
14 tion;

15 “(ii) supports resources for the provi-
16 sion of technical assistance under this sec-
17 tion, such as—

18 “(I) evidence-based or evidence-
19 informed educational materials, tools,
20 recent findings of interest, and links
21 to relevant resources; and

22 “(II) logistical and administrative
23 information, such as online trainings,
24 webinars, and publications; and

1 “(iii) includes a publicly accessible re-
2 pository of webinars, tools, and resources.

“(6) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term
‘nursing workforce center’ means a nursing work-
force center funded under section 785.”.