
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4018

State of Washington 61st Legislature 2009 Regular Session

By Representatives Cody, Morrell, Green, Clibborn, and Kenney

Read first time 04/08/09. Referred to Committee on Health Care & Wellness.

1 TO THE HONORABLE BARACK OBAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND
2 TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED:

5 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
6 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
7 represent and petition as follows:

8 WHEREAS, Replication and expansion of disease prevention programs
9 could result in a cost savings of \$16 billion annually within the next
10 five years, according to research in a July 2008 report from Trust for
11 America's Health; and

12 WHEREAS, Nurses are the largest segment of the nation's health care
13 workforce and are crucial to the promotion of preventative health care
14 and the care of the whole person; and

15 WHEREAS, There are thousands of nurses and nurse educators
16 currently living and working in Oregon; and

17 WHEREAS, Nurses are highly valued and trusted by the public and, in
18 addition to administering health care, are often called upon to deliver
19 educational messages about health maintenance and disease prevention;
20 and

1 WHEREAS, An Office of the National Nurse would serve as an
2 effective complement to the existing Office of the Surgeon General; and

3 WHEREAS, The Office of the National Nurse would act as a public
4 platform to raise awareness of health issues and promote health and
5 wellness through education and community outreach; and

6 WHEREAS, The Office of the National Nurse would provide policy
7 input at the federal level on a number of valuable initiatives, such as
8 providing public service announcements in the media and on the Internet
9 to promote wellness initiatives, addressing factors related to nurse
10 and nurse educator shortages, facilitating the deployment of nurses to
11 underserved areas, strengthening the Medical Reserve Corps to deliver
12 public health services, and providing education to communities,
13 particularly communities at risk or in crisis; and

14 WHEREAS, A serious effort is under way to create an Office of the
15 National Nurse, with legislation introduced in the 109th Congress that
16 garnered the bipartisan support of 42 members;

17 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the
18 Congress of the United States enact legislation creating the Office of
19 the National Nurse.

20 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
21 transmitted to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United
22 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the
23 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of
24 Washington.

--- END ---