

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 305

To authorize the Secretary of Education to carry out a grant program to assist local educational agencies with ensuring that each elementary and secondary school has at least one registered nurse on staff.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 11, 2023

Ms. WILSON of Florida introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Education to carry out a grant program to assist local educational agencies with ensuring that each elementary and secondary school has at least one registered nurse on staff.

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 “One School, One Nurse
5 Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE; FINDINGS.**

2 (a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to assist
3 States and local educational agencies with ensuring that
4 every elementary and secondary school has at least one
5 full-time registered nurse on staff, and to maintain rec-
6 ommended nurse-to-student ratios, including through the
7 recruitment, hiring, and retention of registered nurses.

8 (b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

9 (1) According to the American Academy of Pe-
10 diatrics, every elementary and secondary school
11 should have at least one full-time registered nurse
12 on staff.

13 (2) According to the National Center for Edu-
14 cation Statistics, during the 2015–2016 school year,
15 only about half of all public schools had a full-time
16 registered nurse and nearly 20 percent did not have
17 any nurse on staff. Schools with higher free or re-
18 duced-price lunch program eligibility rates had lower
19 rates of school nurses.

20 (3) According to the Georgetown University
21 Center for Children and Families, in 2019, roughly
22 6 percent of children in the United States were un-
23 insured.

24 (4) For children who lack health care coverage,
25 a school nurse is often a critical source of health
26 services.

1 (5) Studies suggest that schools with a full-time
2 registered nurse experience far-reaching benefits in-
3 cluding fewer student absences, students spending
4 more time in class, more accurate medical records,
5 higher immunization rates, fewer student preg-
6 nancies, and better health outcomes for students
7 with asthma or diabetes.

8 (6) School nurses play a critical role in helping
9 to manage the chronic physical, emotional, mental,
10 and social health needs of students, conduct health
11 screenings, facilitate vaccinations and immunization
12 compliance efforts, reduce burdens on educators and
13 other school staff, and support a positive and
14 healthy school climate.

15 **SEC. 3. ONE SCHOOL, ONE NURSE GRANT PROGRAM.**

16 (a) GRANT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—Not later than
17 12 months after the date of enactment of this section, the
18 Secretary shall establish a program to award grants, on
19 a competitive basis, to eligible entities to carry out the
20 activities under subsection (d). Grants awarded under this
21 section shall be for a period of 5 years.

22 (b) APPLICATION.—An eligible entity desiring a grant
23 under this section shall submit an application to the Sec-
24 retary at such time, in such manner, and containing such

1 information as the Secretary may require. Such applica-
2 tion shall include—

3 (1) a needs assessment of the eligible entity
4 that demonstrates the existence of persistent short-
5 ages of school nurses or persistent shortages of full-
6 time school nurses;

7 (2) a description of the health and wellness
8 needs of the student population served by the eligible
9 entity;

10 (3) a comprehensive plan for the use of grant
11 funds to address persistent shortages described in
12 the needs assessment under paragraph (1), including
13 a description of how such activities shall address the
14 health and wellness needs described under paragraph
15 (2) and how such funds will be used to ensure that
16 the eligible entity will continue to employ and retain
17 school nurses after the completion of the grant pe-
18 riod; and

19 (4) a description of how the eligible entity will
20 prioritize recruiting individuals from the commu-
21 nities served by the eligible entity and from under-
22 represented populations in public health professions
23 (as determined by the Secretary by regulation), and
24 how the eligible entity will track progress in meeting
25 any specified hiring goals.

1 (c) SELECTION AND PRIORITY.—In awarding grants
2 under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to eligi-
3 ble entities that—

4 (1) are a high-need local educational agency, or
5 are a partnership between a State educational agen-
6 cy and a consortium of high-need local educational
7 agencies; and

8 (2) describe and set specific hiring goals to-
9 wards increasing the share of school nurses who are
10 from underrepresented populations in public health
11 professions.

12 (d) ACTIVITIES.—Grant funds awarded under this
13 section shall be used by an eligible entity to carry out one
14 or more of the following activities:

15 (1) Recruit and hire school nurses.

16 (2) Provide resources necessary to convert part-
17 time school nurse positions at elementary or sec-
18 ondary schools served by the eligible entity into full-
19 time school nurse positions.

20 (3) Support the retention of school nurses, in-
21 cluding by increasing salaries.

22 (4) Maintain recommended nurse-to-student ra-
23 tios (as determined by the Secretary by regulation).

24 (e) REPORTING.—Each eligible entity awarded a
25 grant under this section shall submit to the Secretary an

1 annual report for each year of the grant award. Such re-
2 port shall include—

3 (1) a summary of the eligible entity's progress
4 in employing at least one full-time registered nurse
5 at each elementary and secondary school served by
6 the eligible entity and maintaining recommended
7 nurse-to-student ratios (as determined by the Sec-
8 retary by regulation);

9 (2) data on the number and percentage of full-
10 time and part-time school nurses, disaggregated by
11 major racial and ethnic groups and gender, em-
12 ployed at each elementary and secondary school
13 served by the eligible entity; and

14 (3) a summary of any progress made by the eli-
15 gible entity in addressing the health and wellness
16 needs identified in the needs assessment required
17 under subsection (b)(2) as a result of activities car-
18 ried out with a grant under this section.

19 (f) REGULATIONS REQUIRED.—Not later than 12
20 months after the date of enactment of this section, the
21 Secretary shall—

22 (1) in consultation with the Secretary of Health
23 and Human Services—

1 (A) specify in regulation the recommended
2 nurse-to-student ratios for elementary and sec-
3 ondary schools;

4 (B) provide for guidance and other tech-
5 nical assistance to eligible entities with respect
6 to achieving and maintaining such ratios; and

7 (C) specify in regulation the definition of
8 “underrepresented populations in public health
9 professions” for the purposes of this section;
10 and

11 (2) in consultation with the Secretary of Health
12 and Human Services and the Secretary of Labor,
13 specify in regulation the definition of “full-time”
14 with respect to school nurses for the purposes of this
15 section.

16 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

17 (1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
18 ty” means—

19 (A) a local educational agency; or

20 (B) a partnership between a State edu-
21 cational agency and a consortium of local edu-
22 cational agencies in the State, entered into for
23 the purposes of a grant under this section.

24 (2) HIGH-NEED LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGEN-
25 CY.—The term “high-need local educational agency”

1 has the meaning given such term in section 200 of
2 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
3 1021).

4 (3) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY; STATE EDU-
5 CATIONAL AGENCY.—The terms “local educational
6 agency” and “State educational agency” have the
7 meanings given such terms in section 8101 of the
8 Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965
9 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

10 (4) SCHOOL NURSE.—The term “school nurse”
11 means a registered nurse who is employed by a
12 school or local educational agency or State or State
13 educational agency and is qualified under State law
14 to provide assessment, diagnosis, counseling, edu-
15 cational, therapeutic, and other health services to
16 meet student needs.

17 (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
18 the Secretary of Education.

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