

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3770

To amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize grants to support schools of nursing in increasing the number of nursing students and faculty and in program enhancement and infrastructure modernization, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 8 (legislative day, FEBRUARY 7), 2024

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. WELCH, Ms. SMITH, Mr. KING, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. PADILLA) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize grants to support schools of nursing in increasing the number of nursing students and faculty and in program enhancement and infrastructure modernization, 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 “Future Advancement
5 of Academic Nursing Act” or the “FAAN Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. SUPPORT FOR NURSING EDUCATION AND THE FU-**
2 **TURE NURSING WORKFORCE.**

3 Part D of title VIII of the Public Health Service Act
4 (42 U.S.C. 296p et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
5 the following:

6 **“SEC. 832. NURSING EDUCATION ENHANCEMENT AND MOD-**
7 **ERNIZATION GRANTS IN UNDERSERVED**
8 **AREAS.**

9 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through
10 the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services
11 Administration, may award grants to schools of nursing
12 for—

13 “(1) increasing the number of faculty and stu-
14 dents at such schools in order to address nursing
15 workforce shortages;

16 “(2) expanding the capacity of such schools to
17 enhance the preparedness of the United States for,
18 and the ability of the United States to address and
19 quickly respond to, public health emergencies de-
20 clared under section 319 and pandemics that are not
21 otherwise declared as such emergencies; or

22 “(3) the enhancement and modernization of
23 nursing education programs.

24 “(b) PRIORITY.—In selecting grant recipients under
25 this section, the Secretary shall give priority to schools of
26 nursing that—

1 “(1) are located in, or prepare students to prac-
2 tice in, a medically underserved area (as defined in
3 section 330I(a));

4 “(2) are located in, or prepare students to prac-
5 tice in, a health professional shortage area as de-
6 fined under section 332(a);

7 “(3) are institutions of higher education listed
8 under section 371(a) of the Higher Education Act of
9 1965; or

10 “(4) are located in, or prepare students to prac-
11 tice in, a rural area or a noncontiguous State or ter-
12 ritory of the United States.

13 “(c) CONSIDERATION.—In awarding grants under
14 this section, the Secretary, to the extent practicable, may
15 ensure equitable distribution of awards among the geo-
16 graphic regions of the United States.

17 “(d) USE OF FUNDS.—A school of nursing that re-
18 ceives a grant under this section shall use the funds
19 awarded through such grant for activities that include—

20 “(1) enhancing enrollment and retention of stu-
21 dents at such school, with a priority for students
22 from disadvantaged backgrounds (including racial or
23 ethnic groups underrepresented in the nursing work-
24 force), individuals from rural and underserved areas,
25 low-income individuals, and first generation college

1 students (as defined in section 402A(h)(3) of the
2 Higher Education Act of 1965), including through
3 mentorship programs, providing tools and program-
4 ming for underrepresented students, and addressing
5 other student needs;

6 “(2) retaining current faculty, and hiring new
7 faculty, with an emphasis on faculty from racial or
8 ethnic groups who are underrepresented in the nurs-
9 ing workforce;

10 “(3) partnering with a health care facility,
11 nurse-managed health clinic, community health cen-
12 ter, or other facility that provides health care in
13 order to provide educational opportunities for the
14 purpose of establishing or expanding clinical edu-
15 cation;

16 “(4) modernizing infrastructure at such school,
17 including audiovisual or other equipment, simulation
18 and augmented reality resources, telehealth tech-
19 nologies, and virtual and physical laboratories;

20 “(5) creating, supporting, or modernizing edu-
21 cational programs and curriculum at such school;

22 “(6) enhancing and expanding nursing pro-
23 grams that prepare nurse researchers and scientists;

24 “(7) establishing nurse-led intradisciplinary and
25 interprofessional educational partnerships; or

1 “(8) other activities that the Secretary deter-
2 mines further the development, improvement, and
3 expansion of schools of nursing.

4 “(e) REPORTS FROM ENTITIES.—Each school of
5 nursing awarded a grant under this section shall submit
6 an annual report to the Secretary on the activities con-
7 ducted under such grant, and other information as the
8 Secretary may require.

9 “(f) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 5 years
10 after the date of the enactment of this section, the Sec-
11 retary shall submit to the Committee on Health, Edu-
12 cation, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Com-
13 mittee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Rep-
14 resentatives a report that provides a summary of the ac-
15 tivities and outcomes associated with grants made under
16 this section. Such report shall include—

17 “(1) a list of schools of nursing receiving grants
18 under this section, including the primary geographic
19 location of any school of nursing that was improved
20 or expanded through such a grant;

21 “(2) the total number of students who are en-
22 rolled at or who have graduated from any school of
23 nursing that was improved or expanded through a
24 grant under this section, which such statistic shall—

1 “(A) to the extent such information is
2 available, be deidentified and disaggregated by
3 race, ethnicity, age, sex, geographic region, dis-
4 ability status, and other relevant factors; and

5 “(B) include an indication of the number
6 of such students who are from racial or ethnic
7 groups underrepresented in the nursing work-
8 force, such students who are from rural or un-
9 derserved areas, such students who are low-in-
10 come students, and such students who are first
11 generation college students (as defined in sec-
12 tion 402A(h)(3) of the Higher Education Act of
13 1965);

14 “(3) to the extent such information is avail-
15 able—

16 “(A) the effects of the grants awarded
17 under this section on—

18 “(i) retaining and hiring of faculty,
19 including any increase in diverse faculty;

20 “(ii) the number of clinical education
21 partnerships; and

22 “(iii) the modernization of nursing
23 education infrastructure; and

24 “(B) other ways this section helps to ad-
25 dress nursing workforce shortages and quickly

1 respond to public health emergencies declared
2 under section 319 and pandemics that are not
3 otherwise declared as such emergencies;

4 “(4) recommendations for improving the grants
5 awarded under this section; and

6 “(5) any other considerations as the Secretary
7 determines appropriate.

8 “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To
9 carry out this section, there is authorized to be appro-
10 priated \$1,000,000,000 to remain available until ex-
11 pended.”.

12 **SEC. 3. STRENGTHENING NURSE EDUCATION.**

13 The heading of part D of title VIII of the Public
14 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 296p et seq.) is amended
15 by striking “**BASIC**”.

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