



The National Nursing Workforce Center Act

*Bipartisan, Bicameral Legislation Introduced by
Representatives Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE) and Young Kim (R-CA-40)
Senators Jeff Merkley (D-OR) and Thom Tillis (R-NC) and*

BACKGROUND: The National Nursing Workforce Shortage

- The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated a national shortage of registered nurses, making it critical that policymakers invest in all segments of the nursing workforce: from education and training to retention. An important component of this is also having complete, national, standardized data to understand where public policy can help alleviate these shortages.
- The United States could see a deficit of 200,000 to 450,000 registered nurses available for direct patient care by 2025—a 10 to 20 percent gap—just as the population of seniors, who may require more medical services for complex medical conditions, begins to increase dramatically.
- One of the major barriers to understanding this issue is the lack of standardized information about the landscape of nursing in each state, making it difficult to develop informed interventions to recruit and retain nurses.

THE OPPORTUNITY: State-Based Nursing Workforce Centers

- The Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) [nine](#) national Health Workforce Research Centers cover a range of health topics and help provide some of the workforce project data that HRSA publishes.
 - However, the program is limited to centers focusing on programs under Title VII of the Public Health Service Act and, as a result, a nursing research center is not legally permitted.
- Simultaneously, state-based nursing workforce centers—of which there are [40](#) nationwide—use a local lens to address the nursing shortage within their respective states and provide support to develop the existing nursing workforce.
 - These centers report underfunding and lack of technical capabilities as key constraints to fully supporting states' nursing workforce needs.
 - Further, these state-based NWCs collect localized data, but do not have an official reporting relationship with HRSA, creating variable standards in data collection, reporting, and analysis.

THE SOLUTION: *The National Nursing Workforce Center Act*

The National Nursing Workforce Center Act would do four things:

- **Establish a fully-offset, sustainable pilot grant program through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to support state-based nursing workforce centers;**
- **Broaden HRSA's authority to establish Health Workforce Research Centers on any program** under the Public Health Service Act, rather than just Title VII programs authorized under current statute;
- Give HRSA clear authority and a mandate to focus on nursing issues by **requiring the agency to establish a nursing focused research and technical assistance center** under the Health Workforce Research Center Program.
- Require **reports assessing this public-private partnership and if and how it should be expanded nationwide.**