

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 246

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

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 4, 2021

Mr. MERKLEY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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## A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize grants to support schools of nursing in program enhancement and infrastructure modernization, increasing the number of nursing faculty and students, 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 (as defined in section 801) for—

13 “(1) increasing the number of faculty and stu-  
 14 dents at such schools in order to enhance the pre-  
 15 paredness of the United States for, and the ability  
 16 of the United States to address and quickly respond  
 17 to, public health emergencies declared under section  
 18 319 and pandemics; or

19 “(2) the enhancement and modernization of  
 20 nursing education programs.

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

24 “(1) are located in a medically underserved  
 25 community;

1           “(2) are located in a health professional short-  
2           age area as defined under section 332(a); or

3           “(3) are institutions of higher education listed  
4           under section 371(a) of the Higher Education Act of  
5           1965.

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

10          “(d) USE OF FUNDS.—A school of nursing that re-  
11          ceives a grant under this section may use the funds award-  
12          ed through such grant for activities that include—

13               “(1) enhancing enrollment and retention of stu-  
14               dents at such school, with a priority for students  
15               from disadvantaged backgrounds (including racial or  
16               ethnic groups underrepresented in the nursing work-  
17               force), individuals from rural and underserved areas,  
18               low-income individuals, and first generation college  
19               students (as defined in section 402A(h)(3) of the  
20               Higher Education Act of 1965);

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

23               “(3) retaining current faculty, and hiring new  
24               faculty, with an emphasis on faculty from racial or

1 ethnic groups who are underrepresented in the nurs-  
 2 ing workforce;

3 “(4) modernizing infrastructure at such school,  
 4 including audiovisual or other equipment, personal  
 5 protective equipment, simulation and augmented re-  
 6 ality resources, telehealth technologies, and virtual  
 7 and physical laboratories;

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

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

16 “(7) establishing nurse-led intradisciplinary and  
 17 interprofessional educational partnerships; and

18 “(8) other activities that the Secretary deter-  
 19 mines further the development, improvement, and  
 20 expansion of schools of nursing.

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

1       “(f) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 5 years  
2 after the date of the enactment of this section, the Sec-  
3 retary shall submit to the Committee on Health, Edu-  
4 cation, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Com-  
5 mittee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Rep-  
6 resentatives a report that provides a summary of the ac-  
7 tivities and outcomes associated with grants made under  
8 this section. Such report shall include—

9               “(1) a list of schools of nursing receiving grants  
10 under this section, including the primary geographic  
11 location of any school of nursing that was improved  
12 or expanded through such a grant;

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

17                       “(A) to the extent such information is  
18 available, be deidentified and disaggregated by  
19 race, ethnicity, age, sex, geographic region, dis-  
20 ability status, and other relevant factors; and

21                       “(B) include an indication of the number  
22 of such students who are from racial or ethnic  
23 groups underrepresented in the nursing work-  
24 force, such students who are from rural or un-  
25 derserved areas, such students who are low-in-

1           come students, and such students who are first  
 2           generation college students (as defined in sec-  
 3           tion 402A(h)(3) of the Higher Education Act of  
 4           1965);

5           “(3) to the extent such information is available,  
 6           the effects of the grants awarded under this section  
 7           on retaining and hiring of faculty, including any in-  
 8           crease in diverse faculty, the number of clinical edu-  
 9           cation partnerships, the modernization of nursing  
 10          education infrastructure, and other ways this section  
 11          helps address and quickly respond to public health  
 12          emergencies and pandemics;

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

15          “(5) any other considerations as the Secretary  
 16          determines appropriate.

17          “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To  
 18          carry out this section, there is authorized to be appro-  
 19          priated \$1,000,000,000 to remain available until ex-  
 20          pired.”.

21   **SEC. 3. STRENGTHENING NURSE EDUCATION.**

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

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