



The National Nursing Workforce Center Act of 2023

The American Nephrology Nurses Association (ANNA) is a nonprofit organization with a membership of more than 6,000 registered nurses and other health care professionals at all levels of practice. ANNA members work in settings such as chronic kidney disease management, peritoneal dialysis, hemodialysis, continuous renal replacement therapy, transplantation, industry, and government and regulatory agencies.

According to the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, almost 900,000 nurses – approximately one-fifth of 4.5 million total registered nurses – intend to leave the workforce by 2027. Responding to this impending and alarming departure requires multi-faceted solutions, including, but not limited to, understanding the root causes of the nursing shortage, collaborative partnerships at the local, state, and federal levels, and robust and accessible data. To that end, nursing workforce centers (NWCs) offer an invaluable lens into the unique challenges facing the nursing workforce and broader health care system. Currently, there are 39 state-based NWCs that collect local data and conduct analysis, publish reports on nursing supply, demand, and education, and share best practices. However, insufficient funding and scarce resources constrain NWCs' abilities to address states nursing workforce demands. Further, federal solutions are urgently needed to bolster the efforts of state-based NWCs and secure a strong and sustainable national nursing workforce.

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The bipartisan and bicameral *National Nursing Workforce Center Act* (H.R.2411/S.1150) was introduced by Representatives Young Kim (CA-40) and Lisa Blunt Rochester (DE-AL) and Senators Thom Tillis (R-NC) and Jeff Merkley (D-OR) on March 30, 2023. The bill seeks to help stabilize and strengthen the national nursing workforce by:

- Funding a 2-year pilot grant program through the Health Resources and Services Administration to support state-based nursing workforce centers.
- Broadening HRSA's authority under the Public Health Service Act to establish a dedicated nursing research and technical assistance center under the Health Workforce Research Center Program.
- Improving data collection and standardization to help assess critical gaps within the nursing workforce and health care at large, and how public-private partnerships can help address these challenges.
- Collaborating with state and regional health workforce centers to identify and deliver strategies to alleviate nursing shortages and empower the next generation of nurses.

Recommendation: ANNA joins with a broad group of national stakeholders in urging Members of Congress to cosponsor the *National Nursing Workforce Center Act of 2023* (H.R.2411 and S.1150).