

The Need for Additional Nurses

The United States is facing a growing shortage of nurses needed to provide high-quality care to patients. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, there will be almost 190,000 openings for registered nurses annually through 2034 due to nurse retirements, high turnover, transfers to other professions and an aging population. Without the new nursing pipeline provided by the Title VIII programs, the health care workforce will experience increasing shortages in the coming years. For emergency departments, this means longer patient wait times, more patient boarding and overburdened nurses – all of which will negatively impact patient care.

Our nation is already experiencing a nursing shortage. According to a recent study from NSI Nursing Solutions, Inc., nearly 10 percent of registered nurse positions at hospitals across the U.S. remain vacant, putting a tremendous strain on both our health care system and existing nurses. This contributes considerably to the burnout that forces many nurses and other health care professionals to leave the medical field altogether.

16% of ED
patients waited



Source: American College of Emergency Physicians and Morning Consult Poll (October 2023)

The Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs

For more than 60 years, the Nursing Workforce Development Programs, authorized under Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act, have helped provide enough qualified nurses to meet our nation's health care needs. Title VIII bolsters nurse training and education at all levels, from entry-level preparation to graduate study. Further, Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs provide support for institutions that educate nurses for practice in rural and medically underserved communities.

The Title VIII programs support more than 24,000 nurses and nursing students each year, as well as numerous academic nursing institutions and health care facilities.

Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act

This legislation continues Title VIII programs for an additional five years, providing support to advance nursing education, practice, recruitment and retention. Title VIII programs support nursing students through loans and scholarships to nurses-in-training, nurse educators and educational institutions. These efforts are essential to ensuring the American nursing workforce is prepared to meet care needs now and in the future.

Specifically, the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act would:

- Reauthorize funding for the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs through Fiscal Year 2030.
- Make technical changes to the Advanced Nursing Education Program and makes clear that grants for traineeships can cover the costs for clinical education and preceptors.
- Allow nurse education, practice, quality and retention grants to be used to improve teaching technologies and resources, as well as to increase the number of faculty and students at schools of nursing to address nursing workforce shortages.
- Clarify that nurse education, practice, quality and retention grants can be used to provide care for survivors of sexual assault through support of the expansion of SANEs and/or forensic nursing positions.

In addition to the Emergency Nurses Association, the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act is endorsed by more than 50 national organizations, including the American Association of Colleges, the American Nurses Association and the American Hospital Association.

House Request: Cosponsor and Support the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act (H.R. 3593).

The bill was introduced by Rep. Dave Joyce (R-Ohio) along with Reps. Suzanne Bonamici (D-Ore.), Jan Kiggans (R-Va.) and Lauren Underwood (D-Ill.). It was referred to the House Energy and Commerce Committee. On Sept. 10, 2025, the Subcommittee on Health approved H.R. 3593 on a voice vote.

Senate Request: Cosponsor and Support the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act (S. 1874).

The bill was introduced by Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.) along with Sens. Susan Collins (R-Maine), Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.) and Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.). It was referred to the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee.