

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

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<b>Action:</b>	Be Adopted
<b>Vote:</b>	5 - 0 - 0
<b>Yeas:</b>	Bates, Kruse, Morrisette, Morse, Monnes Anderson
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	0
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Robert Shook, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	2/19

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Urges Congress to enact legislation creating Office of the National Nurse.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Impact on nursing profession
- Coordination with Office of Surgeon General

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No Amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** The Seventy-fifth Legislative Assembly, through SJM 5, is urging Congress to create the Office of National Nurse, recognizing that nurses represent the largest segment of the nation's health care workforce, are crucial to the promotion of preventative health care, are highly valued and trusted by the public in the administration of health care, and are called upon to deliver educational messages about health maintenance and disease prevention. The Office of National Nurse, within the United States Public Health Service, would serve as an effective complement to the existing Office of the Surgeon General, by acting as a public platform to raise awareness of health issues and promote health and wellness through education and community outreach. The Office would provide policy input at the federal level on valuable initiatives, such as providing public service announcements promoting wellness initiatives, addressing factors related to nurse and nurse educator shortages, facilitating the deployment of nurses to underserved areas, strengthening the Medical Reserve Corps to deliver public health services and providing education to communities, particularly communities at risk or in crisis. This initiative to create the Office of the National Nurse started in Oregon and has gained momentum in other states, and with a number of national organizations relating to nursing and the nursing profession.