

Enrolled

Senate Joint Memorial 5

Sponsored by Senator MONNES ANDERSON, Representative DEMBROW; Senators BATES, BONAMICI, BOQUIST, BURDICK, CARTER, DEVLIN, DINGFELDER, HASS, JOHNSON, METSGER, MONROE, MORRISSETTE, NELSON, PROZANSKI, ROSENBAUM, SCHRADER, VERGER, WALKER, WINTERS, Representatives BAILEY, BARNHART, BERGER, BOONE, CAMERON, CANNON, D EDWARDS, GALIZIO, GARRETT, GELSER, HARKER, KAHL, KOMP, KOTEK, MAURER, OLSON, READ, ROBLAN, SCHAUFLENER, SHIELDS, G SMITH, STIEGLER, THOMPSON, TOMEI, VANORMAN

To the President of the United States and the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled:

We, your memorialists, the Seventy-fifth Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, in legislative session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

Whereas replication and expansion of disease prevention programs could result in a cost savings of \$16 billion annually within the next five years, according to research in a July 2008 report from Trust for America's Health; and

Whereas nurses are the largest segment of the nation's health care workforce and are crucial to the promotion of preventative health care and the care of the whole person; and

Whereas there are thousands of nurses and nurse educators currently living and working in Oregon; and

Whereas nurses are highly valued and trusted by the public and, in addition to administering health care, are often called upon to deliver educational messages about health maintenance and disease prevention; and

Whereas an Office of the National Nurse would serve as an effective complement to the existing Office of the Surgeon General; and

Whereas the Office of the National Nurse would act as a public platform to raise awareness of health issues and promote health and wellness through education and community outreach; and

Whereas the Office of the National Nurse would provide policy input at the federal level on a number of valuable initiatives, such as providing public service announcements in the media and on the Internet to promote 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; and

Whereas a serious effort is under way to create an Office of the National Nurse, with legislation introduced in the 109th Congress that garnered the bipartisan support of 42 members, including the entire Oregon House delegation; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:

(1) That the Seventy-fifth Legislative Assembly urges the Congress of the United States to enact legislation creating the Office of the National Nurse.

(2) A copy of this memorial shall be sent to the President of the United States, to the Senate Majority Leader, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and to each member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.

Adopted by Senate February 26, 2009

Secretary of Senate

President of Senate

Adopted by House March 19, 2009

Speaker of House