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HR 485 and S. 1475, the National Nurse Act of 2013

HR 485 introduced by Congresswoman Eddie Johnson and companion bill S. 1475, introduced by Senator Jeff Merkley would establish the position of National Nurse for Public Health. The bill amends the Public Health Service Act to establish the position of National Nurse for Public Health within the Office of the Surgeon General. It requires the individual serving as the National Nurse for Public Health to serve also as the Chief Nurse Officer of the Public Health Service. The bill includes among the duties of such position providing leadership and coordination of Public Health Service nursing professional affairs for the Office of the Surgeon General and other agencies of the Public Health Service, conducting media campaigns, and providing guidance and leadership for activities that will increase



the National Nurse for Public Health to:

- (1) participate in identification of national health priorities,
- (2) encourage volunteerism of nurses and strengthen the relationship between government agencies and health-related national organizations, and
- (3) promote the dissemination of evidence-based practice in educating the public on health promotion and disease prevention activities.

CMSA believes this bill would give a greater voice to issues important to nurses and nursing, as well as increasing health awareness, improving healthcare literacy, and reducing health disparities. The National Nurse for Public Health would raise awareness about what everyone can do to prevent illness while improving our own health and that of our families. We encourage you to support HR 485 and S. 1475.

For more information, visit http://nationalnurse.org