

(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To provide for establishment of the National Task Force on the Nursing Shortage.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. COSTA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee  
on \_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL**

To provide for establishment of the National Task Force  
on the Nursing Shortage.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “National Nursing  
5 Shortage Task Force Act of 2023”.

6 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL NURSING SHORTAGE TASK FORCE.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after  
8 the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary of  
9 Health and Human Services (in this section referred to

1 as the “Secretary”) shall establish a task force to be  
2 known as the National Nursing Shortage Task Force (in  
3 this section referred to as the “Task Force”).

4 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Task Force is to  
5 issue policy recommendations to the President and the  
6 Congress to address the growing nursing shortage across  
7 the United States, with a particular focus on addressing  
8 the shortage in health professional shortage areas des-  
9 ignated under section 332 of the Public Health Service  
10 Act (42 U.S.C. 254e).

11 (c) DUTIES.—The Task Force shall—

12 (1) examine, assess, and report on the United  
13 States nursing workforce capacity, including—

14 (A) trends in the overall nursing work-  
15 force;

16 (B) the capacity to educate future nurses;

17 (C) causes for the existing nursing short-  
18 age; and

19 (D) Federal policies to bolster nursing edu-  
20 cation and the nursing workforce;

21 (2) build upon existing or ongoing evaluations,  
22 and avoid unnecessary duplication, by reviewing, as  
23 appropriate, the findings, conclusions, and rec-  
24 ommendations of other task forces, committees, com-

1 missions, and other public and private entities with  
2 respect to the national nursing shortage;

3 (3) identify areas of Federal policy that have  
4 impacted the ability of the United States to respond  
5 to the growing nursing shortage, including—

6 (A) Federal support of nursing education  
7 programs;

8 (B) Federal support of increasing diversity  
9 in the nursing workforce; and

10 (C) incentives for nurses to work in under-  
11 served areas and communities;

12 (4) identify and recommend a set of possible so-  
13 lutions to the nursing shortage for policymakers, in-  
14 cluding legislative and regulatory recommendations;  
15 and

16 (5) submit to the President and the Congress a  
17 report on the Task Force's findings, conclusions,  
18 and recommendations to bolster nursing education  
19 and the nursing workforce in the United States.

20 (d) COMPOSITION OF TASK FORCE.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—The members of the Task  
22 Force shall be appointed by the Secretary and be  
23 composed of not fewer than 12 members, of which  
24 at least one third shall be registered nurses.

1           (2) EXPERTISE.—The members of the Task  
2       Force shall include individuals with national recogni-  
3       tion for their expertise in one or more of the fol-  
4       lowing areas:

5           (A) The demands of practicing nurses, in  
6       particular individuals currently working in the  
7       profession.

8           (B) Nursing labor market analysis.

9           (C) Health care finance and economics.

10          (D) Health care facility management.

11          (E) Nursing education.

12          (F) Delivery of health care services,  
13       prioritizing individuals with expertise on deliv-  
14       ering services in underserved regions.

15          (G) Health care organization culture and  
16       its impact on nurses.

17          (H) Federal, State, local, Tribal, or terri-  
18       torial governmental programs that support the  
19       health care workforce and other relevant public  
20       administration, such as State nursing licensing  
21       agencies.

22          (I) Nursing labor unions.

23          (J) Any other area of expertise that the  
24       Secretary considers appropriate.

1           (3) GEOGRAPHIC REPRESENTATION.—The  
2       members of the Task Force shall collectively rep-  
3       resent—

4           (A) urban, suburban, and rural regions;  
5       and

6           (B) regional diversity across the Nation.

7           (4) CO-CHAIRS.—There shall be two co-chairs  
8       of the Task Force, both designated by the Secretary  
9       at the time of appointment from among the individ-  
10      uals appointed under paragraph (1). One co-chair  
11      shall be a registered nurse. The other co-chair shall  
12      have a background in nursing education.

13          (5) DEADLINE FOR APPOINTMENT.—The Sec-  
14      retary shall appoint all members of the Task Force  
15      not later than 90 days after the date of enactment  
16      of this Act.

17          (6) MEETINGS.—The Task Force shall meet  
18      and begin the operations of the Task Force as soon  
19      as practicable after the date of enactment of this  
20      Act. After its initial meeting, the Task Force shall  
21      meet at the call of the co-chairs acting jointly or at  
22      the call of a quorum of its members.

23          (7) QUORUM; VACANCIES.—

1 (A) QUORUM.—A majority of the total  
2 number of members of the Task Force shall  
3 constitute a quorum.

4 (B) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy in the Task  
5 Force shall not affect its powers, but shall be  
6 filled in the same manner in which the original  
7 appointment was made.

8 (e) FINAL REPORT OF TASK FORCE; TERMI-  
9 NATION.—

10 (1) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than one year  
11 after the date on which the last member of the Task  
12 Force is appointed, the Task Force shall submit to  
13 the President, the Committee on Health, Education,  
14 Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, and the Com-  
15 mittee on Energy and Commerce of the House of  
16 Representatives a final report containing such find-  
17 ings, conclusions, and recommendations as have  
18 been agreed to by not less than a majority of the  
19 members of the Task Force. The Task Force shall  
20 make such final report available to the public online.

21 (2) TERMINATION.—

22 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Task Force, and  
23 all the authorities of this section, shall termi-  
24 nate 90 days after the date on which the final  
25 report is submitted under paragraph (1).

1 (B) ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES BEFORE  
2 TERMINATION.—The Task Force may use the  
3 90-day period referred to in subparagraph (A)  
4 for the purpose of concluding its activities, in-  
5 cluding providing testimony to committees of  
6 Congress concerning reports of the Task Force  
7 and disseminating the final report under para-  
8 graph (1).

9 (f) FUNDING.—

10 (1) DURATION OF AVAILABILITY.—Amounts  
11 made available to the Task Force shall remain avail-  
12 able until the termination of the Task Force.

13 (2) GIFTS AND DONATIONS.—The Task Force  
14 may accept gifts and donations for the purposes of  
15 carrying out this Act.