

EDUCATING FUTURE NURSES ACT (H.R.10410)

H.R.10410 was reintroduced on September 16, 2026, by Reps. Lauren Underwood (D-IL-14), Jennifer Kiggans (R-VA-02), and Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR-01).

The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) is the national voice for academic nursing representing more than 890 member schools throughout the country.

AACN member schools educate more than 570,000 nursing students and employ more than 58,000 faculty.

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Request: Cosponsor and Pass the Educating Future Nurses Act (H.R.10410)

The bipartisan Educating Future Nurses Act would establish a national Graduate Nursing Education (GNE) program under Medicare where hospitals, partnering with schools of nursing, receive payments for the costs associated with providing clinical training for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs).

Understanding the Value of APRNs and the APRN Shortage

APRNs complete post-baccalaureate education at the master's or doctoral level and receive advanced clinical training in assessment, diagnosis, and treatment before they are licensed to practice in specialized and primary care roles. Supporting a national GNE program is particularly important for communities across the country as 87% of nurse practitioners are educated and prepared in programs that focus on primary care¹ and certified registered nurse anesthetists represent more than 80% of anesthesia providers in rural counties.²

Addressing the ongoing shortage of APRNs is crucial to meeting the increased demand for healthcare nationwide. Each year through 2035, the Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates an average of 32,200 job openings for most APRN roles, including nurse anesthetists, nurse midwives, and nurse practitioners.³ This represents 36% growth, which significantly outpaces the 3% projected growth across all occupations.⁴

Building on Past Success: The Graduate Nurse Education Demonstration

Between 2012 and 2018, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) operated a successful GNE demonstration project. The GNE demonstration reimbursed participating hospitals located in different regions of the country for costs associated with providing clinical education to APRN students from schools of nursing in their area.

The results were highly promising. CMS found that participating schools of nursing saw their average APRN student enrollment rates increase by 54% per year, and saw graduation rates for those students increase by 67% per year compared to non-GNE schools of nursing.⁵ The GNE demonstration also found that participating schools enhanced and formalized their clinical placement processes, and increased collaboration between clinical education sites, hospitals, and other schools of nursing.⁶

1. American Association of Nurse Practitioners. 2025. Nurse Practitioners in Primary Care. Retrieved from:

<https://www.aanp.org/advocacy/advocacy-resource/position-statements/nurse-practitioners-in-primary-care>

2. AANA Get the Facts. Access to Care. Retrieved from: <https://www.aana.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Get-the-Facts-Access-General.pdf>

3. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2026). Occupational Outlook Handbook- Nurse Anesthetists, Nurse Midwives, and Nurse Practitioners. Retrieved from: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/nurse-anesthetists-nurse-midwivesand-nurse-practitioners.htm>

4. Ibid.

5. IMPAQ. 2019. The Graduate Nurse Education Demonstration Project: Final Evaluation Report. Retrieved from:

<https://www.cms.gov/priorities/innovation/files/reports/gne-final-eval-rpt.pdf>

6. Ibid.