

THE FUTURE ADVANCEMENT OF ACADEMIC NURSING (FAAN) ACT (S.3770/ H.R.7266)

Request: Cosponsor and Pass the Future Advancement of Academic Nursing (FAAN) Act (S.3770/H.R.7266)

The FAAN Act was introduced by Rep. Lauren Underwood (D-IL-14) on February 7, 2024 and by Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR) on February 8, 2024. There are currently 3 cosponsors in the House and 10 cosponsors in the Senate.

The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) is the national voice for academic nursing representing more than 875 member schools throughout the country.

AACN member schools educate more than 530,000 students and employ more than 54,000 faculty.

AACN recognizes the need for investment in nursing education pathways, including at the baccalaureate, graduate, and post-graduate levels, to support immediate infrastructure needs, which are essential to meeting future workforce demands. The FAAN Act would invest \$1 billion into accredited schools of nursing with special consideration given to supporting minority-serving institutions and schools located in medically underserved, rural, or health professional shortage areas and in a noncontiguous state or territory of the United States. Specifically, the FAAN Act would:

ENSURE A STRONG NURSING WORKFORCE

The demand for nurses is growing faster than average, as the Bureau of Labor Statistics projects the need for Registered Nurses (RNs) to increase 6%¹ and for most Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) to increase by 38%² by 2032. Alarming, a 2023 AACN survey found that for the first time in 20 years, enrollment in entry-level baccalaureate nursing programs declined.³ The FAAN Act would support the enrollment and retention of all possible students to ensure the next generation of nursing leaders are available to meet the nation's healthcare needs.

HIRE & RETAIN A DIVERSE FACULTY

In the 17th National Advisory Council on Nurse Education and Practice (NACNEP) report, it is estimated that, "almost one in three nurse faculty members active in 2015 will be set to retire in 2025."⁴ Further, minority faculty only represent 19.2% of full-time faculty positions in schools of nursing.⁵ As the nation works to eliminate inequities in our healthcare system and recruit more nurse educators, the FAAN Act would help meet this objective by supporting the hiring and retention of nursing faculty.

MODERNIZE NURSING EDUCATION AND SUPPORT CLINICAL PLACEMENT

A recent AACN survey found that insufficient clinical sites and clinical preceptors are primary barriers for schools of nursing from accepting more students.³ The FAAN Act helps address the need for more clinical education sites and preceptors, and provides investments in nursing education infrastructure and resources, including audiovisual, simulation and augmented reality resources, telehealth technologies, and virtual and physical laboratories to support the learning environment.

SUPPORT FUTURE NURSE SCIENTISTS & RESEARCHERS

The FAAN Act provides resources to support schools of nursing as they help prepare future nurse scientists and researchers, who are essential innovators, as health challenges arise. The FAAN Act also supports the establishment of nurse-led partnerships to build upon the framework for future innovation and discoveries.

1. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2023). Occupational Outlook Handbook- Registered Nurses. Retrieved from: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/registered-nurses.htm>
2. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2023). Occupational Outlook Handbook- Nurse Anesthetists, Nurse Midwives, and Nurse Practitioners. Retrieved from: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/nurse-anesthetists-nurse-midwives-and-nurse-practitioners.htm>
3. American Association of Colleges of Nursing (2023). "New Data Show Enrollment Declines in Schools of Nursing, Raising Concerns About the Nation's Nursing Workforce." Retrieved from: <https://www.aacnnursing.org/News-Information/Press-Releases/View/ArticleId/25183/Nursing-Schools-See-Enrollment-Increases-in-Entry-Level-Programs>
4. The National Advisory Council on Nurse Education and Practice (2020). Preparing Nurse Faculty and Addressing the Shortage of Nurse Faculty and Clinical Preceptors- 17th Report to the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Congress. Page 10. Retrieved from: <https://www.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/hrsa/advisory-committees/nursing/reports/nacnep-17report-2021.pdf>
5. American Association of Colleges of Nursing (2023). Enhancing Diversity in the Nursing Workforce. Page 2. Retrieved from: <https://www.aacnnursing.org/Portals/0/PDFs/Fact-Sheets/Enhancing-Diversity-Factsheet.pdf>

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