20

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 4137, AS REPORTED

OFFERED BY MR. HOLT OF NEW JERSEY AND MR. WELCH OF VERMONT

Nursing education study

At the end of title VIII of the bill, add the following new section:

1 **SEC. 814. NURSING SCHOOL CAPACITY.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds as follows:

3 (1) Researchers in the field of public health
4 have identified the need for a national study to iden-
5 tify constraints encountered by schools of nursing in
6 graduating the number of nurses sufficient to meet
7 the health care needs of the United States.

8 (2) The shortage of qualified registered nurses
9 has adversely affected the health care system of the
10 United States.

11 (3) Individual States have had varying degrees
12 of success with programs designed to increase the
13 recruitment and retention of nurses.

14 (4) Schools of nursing have been unable to pro-
15 vide a sufficient number of qualified graduates to
16 meet the workforce needs.

1 (5) Many nurses are approaching the age of re-
2 tirement, and the problem worsens each year.
3 (6) In 2004, an estimated 125,000 applications
4 from qualified applicants were rejected by schools of
5 nursing, due to a shortage of faculty and a lack of
6 capacity for additional students.
7 (b) STUDY WITH RESPECT TO CONSTRAINTS WITH
8 RESPECT TO SCHOOLS OF NURSING.—
9 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall request
10 the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy
11 of Sciences to enter into an agreement under which
12 the Institute conducts a study for the purpose of—
13 (A) identifying constraints encountered by
14 schools of nursing in admitting and graduating
15 the number of registered nurses necessary to
16 ensure patient safety and meet the need for
17 quality assurance in the provision of health
18 care; and
19 (B) developing recommendations to allevi-
20 ate the constraints on a short-term and long-
21 term basis.
22 (2) CERTAIN COMPONENTS.—The Secretary
23 shall ensure that the agreement under paragraph (1)
24 provides that the study under such subsection will
25 include information on the following:

1 (A) The trends in applications for attend-
2 ance at schools of nursing that are relevant to
3 the purpose described in such subsection, in-
4 cluding trends regarding applicants who are ac-
5 cepted for enrollment and applicants who are
6 not accepted, particularly qualified applicants
7 who are not accepted.
8 (B) The number and demographic charac-
9 teristics of entry-level and graduate students
10 currently enrolled in schools of nursing, the re-
11 tention rates at the schools, and the number of
12 recent graduates from the schools, as compared
13 to previous years and to the projected need for
14 registered nurses based on two-year, five-year,
15 and ten-year projections.
16 (C) The number and demographic charac-
17 teristics of nurses who pursue graduate edu-
18 cation in nursing and non-nursing programs
19 but do not pursue faculty positions in schools of
20 nursing, the reasons therefor, including any
21 regulatory barriers to choosing to pursue such
22 positions, and the effect of such decisions on
23 the ability of the schools to obtain adequate
24 numbers of faculty members.

1 (D) The extent to which entry-level grad-
2 uates of the schools are satisfied with their edu-
3 cational preparation, including their participa-
4 tion in nurse externships, internships, and resi-
5 dency programs, and to which they are able to
6 effectively transition into the nursing workforce.
7 (E) The satisfaction of nurse managers
8 and administrators with respect to the prepara-
9 tion and performance levels of entry-level grad-
10 uates from the schools after one year, three
11 years, and five years of practice, respectively.
12 (F) The extent to which the current salary,
13 benefit structures, and characteristics of the
14 workplace, including the number of nurses who
15 are presently serving in faculty positions, influ-
16 ence the career path of nurses who have pur-
17 sued graduate education.
18 (G) The extent to which the use of innova-
19 tive technologies for didactic and clinical nurs-
20 ing education might provide for an increase in
21 the ability of schools of nursing to train quali-
22 fied nurses.
23 (3) RECOMMENDATIONS.—Recommendations
24 under paragraph (2)(B) may include recommenda-
25 tions for legislative or administrative changes at the

1 Federal or State level, and measures that can be
2 taken in the private sector—
3 (A) to facilitate the recruitment of stu-
4 dents into the nursing profession;
5 (B) to facilitate the retention of nurses in
6 the workplace; and
7 (C) to improve the resources and ability of
8 the education and health care systems to pre-
9 pare a sufficient number of qualified registered
10 nurses.
11 (4) METHODOLOGY OF STUDY.—
12 (A) SCOPE.—The Secretary shall ensure
13 that the agreement under paragraph (1) pro-
14 vides that the study under such subsection will
15 consider the perspectives of nurses and physi-
16 cians in each of the various types of inpatient,
17 outpatient, and residential facilities in the
18 health care delivery system; faculty and admin-
19 istrators of schools of nursing; providers of
20 health plans or health insurance; and con-
21 sumers.
22 (B) CONSULTATION WITH RELEVANT OR-
23 GANIZATION.—The Secretary shall ensure that
24 the agreement under paragraph (1) provides
25 that relevant agencies and organizations with

1 expertise on the nursing shortage will be con-
2 sulted with respect to the study under such sub-
3 section, including but not limited to the fol-
4 lowing:
5 (i) The Agency for Healthcare Re-
6 search and Quality.
7 (ii) The American Academy of Nurs-
8 ing.
9 (iii) The American Association of Col-
10 leges of Nursing.
11 (iv) The American Nurses Associa-
12 tion.
13 (v) The American Organization of
14 Nurse Executives.
15 (vi) The National Institute of Nursing
16 Research.
17 (vii) The National League for Nurs-
18 ing.
19 (viii) The National Organization for
20 Associate Degree Nursing.
21 (ix) The National Student Nurses As-
22 sociation.
23 (5) REPORT.—The Secretary shall ensure that
24 the agreement under paragraph (1) provides that
25 not later than 18 months after the date of the enact-

1 ment of this section, a report providing the findings
2 and recommendations made in the study under such
3 subsection will be submitted to the Secretary, the
4 Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House
5 of Representatives, and the Committee on Health,
6 Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate.
7 (6) OTHER ORGANIZATION.—If the Institute de-
8 clines to conduct the study under paragraph (1), the
9 Secretary may enter into an agreement with another
10 appropriate private entity to conduct the study.
11 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
12 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be
13 necessary to carry out this section.
14 (d) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:
15 (1) The term "Institute" means the Institute of
16 Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences.
17 (2)(A) The term "school of nursing" means a
18 collegiate, associate degree, or diploma school of
19 nursing in a State.
20 (B) The terms "collegiate school of nursing",
21 "associate degree school of nursing", and "diploma
22 school of nursing" have the meanings given to such
23 terms in section 801 of the Public Health Service
24 Act.

1 (3) The term "Secretary" means the Secretary
2 of Education.