



September 11, 2020

Senator Jerry Moran
Chairman
Committee on Veterans' Affairs
United States Senate
412 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Jon Tester
Ranking Member
Committee on Veterans' Affairs
United States Senate
825-A Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Moran and Ranking Member Tester:

On behalf of the 61 undersigned organizations representing the Nursing Community Coalition (NCC), we urge you to include and pass the bipartisan United States Cadet Nurse Corps Service Recognition Act of 2019 (S.997) in any legislative package honoring our nation's veterans before the end of the 116th Congress. S.997 recognizes the nurses who served as members of the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps during World War II and provides them with honorable discharges, medal privileges, and burial benefits for cemeteries administered under the Department of Veterans Affairs. As a coalition representing the cross section of nursing education, practice, research, and regulation within the nursing profession, we fully support this significant legislation and strongly encourage the Committee to take up and pass S.997 this Congress.

As we celebrate the International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife, it is vital that we not only recognize the nurses currently helping patients every day, including those on the frontlines combating COVID-19, but also honor the nurses that laid the foundation of our profession. This is the case for the nearly 120,000 nurses who answered the call from 1943 to 1948 and honorably cared for our servicemen and women during World War II.

On June 21, 1945, President Truman issued Executive Order No. 9575, which declared "the commissioned corps of the Public Health Service to be a military service and a branch of the land and naval forces of the United States for the period of the present war."¹ The U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps operated under the direction of the U.S. Public Health Service.² Unfortunately this heroic group was not considered for veterans' status under the GI Bill Improvement Act of 1977 ([P. L. 95-202](#)). The GI Bill Improvement Act granted veterans' status for groups who served in World War I and II, including the

¹ Parascandola J. Militarization of the PHS Commissioned Corps. 2001 Sept. Retrieved from: <https://lhncbc.nlm.nih.gov/system/files/pub2001060.pdf>

² An Act To provide for the training of nurses for the armed forces, governmental and civilian hospitals, health agencies, and war industries, through grants to institutions providing such training, and for other purposes. Retrieved from: <https://www.loc.gov/law/help/statutes-at-large/78th-congress/session-1/c78s1ch126.pdf>

civilian Women's Air Force Service Pilots (WASPs) and other groups of employees with war-related occupations, but not those in the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps.³

For over 75 years these brave nurses remain unrecognized. The NCC strongly encourages you to include this bipartisan bill in any relevant legislation and pass S.997, the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps Service Recognition Act before the end of the 116th Congress. If our organizations can be of any assistance, or if you have any questions, please contact the Nursing Community Coalition's Executive Director, Rachel Stevenson, at rstevenson@thenursingcommunity.org or at 202-463-6930, ext. 271.

Sincerely,

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses
American Academy of Emergency Nurse Practitioners
Academy of Neonatal Nursing
American Academy of Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Critical-Care Nurses
American Association of Heart Failure Nurses
American Association of Neuroscience Nurses
American Association of Nurse Anesthetists
American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American Association of Post-Acute Care Nursing
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American Nephrology Nurses Association
American Nurses Association
American Nursing Informatics Association
American Organization for Nursing Leadership
American Pediatric Surgical Nurses Association, Inc.
American Public Health Association, Public Health Nursing Section
American Psychiatric Nurses Association
American Society for Pain Management Nursing
American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses
Association for Radiologic and Imaging Nursing
Association of Community Health Nursing Educators
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses
Association of periOperative Registered Nurses
Association of Public Health Nurses
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses
Association of Veterans Affairs Nurse Anesthetists
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Incorporated
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service

³ Department of Veteran's Affairs. 38 CFR § 3.7 - Individuals and groups considered to have performed active military, naval, or air service. Retrieved from: <https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/38/3.7>

Dermatology Nurses' Association
Emergency Nurses Association
Friends of the National Institute of Nursing Research
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association
Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association
Infusion Nurses Society
International Association of Forensic Nurses
International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
National Association of Hispanic Nurses
National Association of Neonatal Nurse Practitioners
National Association of Neonatal Nurses
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of School Nurses
National Black Nurses Association
National Council of State Boards of Nursing
National Forum of State Nursing Workforce Centers
National League for Nursing
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs
Oncology Nursing Society
Organization for Associate Degree Nursing
Pediatric Endocrinology Nursing Society
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association
Society of Pediatric Nurses
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates
Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society

CC:

Senator John Boozman
Senator Bill Cassidy
Senator Mike Rounds
Senator Thom Tillis
Senator Dan Sullivan
Senator Marsha Blackburn
Senator Kevin Cramer
Senator Kelly Loeffler
Senator Patty Murray
Senator Bernie Sanders
Senator Sherrod Brown
Senator Richard Blumenthal
Senator Mazie Hirono
Senator Joe Manchin

Senator Kyrsten Sinema