

Future Advancement of Academic Nursing (FAAN) Act
Introduced by Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR) and Representative Lauren Underwood (D-IL-14)

Section 1: Short Title

This Act may be cited as the “Future Advancement of Academic Nursing Act” or “FAAN Act”.

Section 2: Support for Nursing Education and the Future Nursing Workforce

Amends Part D of Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 296p) to award Nursing Education Enhancement and Modernization Grants in Underserved Areas to schools of nursing. This program would increase the number of faculty and students at nursing schools in order to address nursing workforce shortages and allow nursing schools to enhance preparedness and quickly respond to public health emergencies and pandemics and modernize their nursing education programs. Considerations would be made to distribute grants among the geographic regions of the United States, with priority to schools of nursing that:

- Are located in, or prepare students to practice in, a medically underserved area;
- Are located in, or prepare students to practice in, a health professional shortage area;
- Are a minority-serving institution; or
- Are located in, or prepare students to practice in, a rural area or a non-contiguous State or territory of the United States.

Awards under the Nursing Education Enhancement and Modernization Grant Program could be used to support and expand schools of nursing and academic nursing infrastructure and respond to current and future public health emergencies and pandemics by providing resources to:

- Enroll and retain nursing students, our future nursing leaders and frontline providers, from disadvantaged backgrounds (including racial or ethnic groups underrepresented in the nursing workforce), individuals from rural and underserved areas, low-income individuals, and first-generation college students;
- Hire and retain a diverse faculty to educate the future nursing workforce;
- Support schools of nursing in partnering with health care facilities, nurse-managed health clinics, community health centers, and other facilities that provide health care to expand clinical education opportunities;
- Modernize technological and educational infrastructure, including audiovisual or other equipment, simulation and augmented reality resources, telehealth technologies, and virtual and physical laboratories; especially as schools of nursing expand distance learning opportunities;
- Support nursing education, including creating and modernizing educational programs and curricula;
- Enhance and expand nursing programs that prepare nurse researchers and scientists;
- Establish nurse-led intradisciplinary and interprofessional educational partnerships;
- Support other investments that the Secretary of Health and Human Services determines would further the development, improvement, and expansion of a school of nursing.

The FAAN Act would direct grant awardees to submit an annual report to the Secretary of Health and Human Services detailing the activities conducted under the grant and would also require the Secretary to submit a report to Congress no later than five years after the enactment of this Act detailing the outcomes and students served by the program, including:

- A list of schools of nursing that received grants, including their geographic location;
- Disaggregated data on race, ethnicity, age, sex, geographic region, and disability status of the number of enrolled students and graduates from awardee schools of nursing; and
- Information on the number of enrolled students and graduates from awardee schools of nursing who are from racial or ethnic groups underrepresented in nursing, rural and underserved areas, low-income students, and first-generation college students.
- Information on increases in the number and diversity of nursing school faculty, number of clinical education partnerships, and ways the grants have addressed nursing workforce shortages and the ability to respond to public health emergencies and pandemics at awardee schools of nursing.

The program is authorized to be appropriated \$1 billion to remain available until expended.

Section 3: Strengthen Nursing Education

Amends Part D of Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 296p) by striking “Basic” in the section heading so the heading now reads “Strengthening Capacity for Nurse Education and Practice.”