To designate the same individual serving as the Chief Nurse Officer of the Public Health Service as the National Nurse for Public Health.

In the House of Representatives

Ms. Johnson of Texas introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on ______________________

A BILL

To designate the same individual serving as the Chief Nurse Officer of the Public Health Service as the National Nurse for Public Health.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “National Nurse Act of 2019”.
SEC. 2. NATIONAL NURSE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH.

Title XVII of the Public Health Service Act (42
U.S.C. 300u et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
the following:

“SEC. 1712. NATIONAL NURSE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The same individual des-
ignated as the Chief Nurse Officer of the Public Health
Service under section 205 shall also be designated by the
Secretary as the National Nurse for Public Health.

“(b) AUTHORITY.—The National Nurse for Public
Health shall have the authority and flexibility to carry out
the following:

“(1) Provide leadership and coordination of
Public Health Service nursing professional affairs
for the Office of the Surgeon General and other
agencies of the Public Health Service, including pro-
viding representation for the Government of the
United States at the Global Forum for Government
Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officers and serving as
a member of the Federal Nursing Service Council.

“(2) Represent the Surgeon General and the
agencies of Public Health Service in communications
with groups and societies concerned with nursing
issues at the local, State, national, and international
levels.
“(3) Provide guidance and advice to the Surgeon General and the Nurse Professional Advisory Committee on matters such as standards, recruitment, retention, readiness, and career development of nurses employed by and contracted with agencies of the Public Health Service.

“(4) Conduct outreach and education for purposes of paragraphs (5) through (7).

“(5) Provide guidance and leadership for activities to promote the public health, including encouraging nurses and other health professionals to be volunteers and developing projects that educate the public about and engage the public in prevention practices to achieve better health.

“(6) Provide guidance and leadership to encourage nurses to engage in furthering their education in order to conduct nursing research, increase the awareness of evidence-based practice, and educate future nurses.

“(7) Provide guidance and leadership for activities that will increase public safety and emergency preparedness.

“(8) Prepare and publish a biennial report on the state of the Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service Nurse Category.
“(c) NATIONAL HEALTH PRIORITIES—NATIONAL PREVENTION STRATEGY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The National Nurse for Public Health, in cooperation with the Surgeon General of the Public Health Service, heads of the agencies of the Public Health Service, States, and organizations that represent health professionals, shall continue to participate in the identification of national health priorities.

“(2) ADDRESSING NATIONAL HEALTH PRIORITIES.—The National Nurse for Public Health, in addressing national health priorities, shall encourage volunteerism of nurses and other individuals, and strengthen the relationship between Government agencies and health-related national organizations.

“(3) COMMUNITY-BASED PROJECTS.—

“(A) IMPLEMENTATION.—In addressing national health priorities, the National Nurse for Public Health shall—

“(i) provide guidance and coordination on recommended activities to organizations;

“(ii) acknowledge successful programs and encourage their replication;
“(iii) promote the dissemination of evidence-based practice in educating the public on health promotion and disease prevention activities;

“(iv) encourage practicing nurses and other health professionals, including retired health professionals and students enrolled in health professional programs, to participate in health promotion activities and replicate successful health promotion activities in their local communities; and

“(v) collaborate with Federal agencies to monitor activities being conducted through the collection and evaluation of data to determine if national health priorities are being addressed.

“(B) OUTREACH AND EDUCATION.—In conducting outreach and education under subsection (b)(4), the National Nurse for Public Health shall give priority to the inclusion of diverse approaches, including social media campaigns, to address national health priorities.

“(C) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—The National Nurse for Public Health shall disseminate information to governmental agencies,
schools, and community-based, nonprofit organizations interested in health promotion and improving public health through community action.”.