

Working For Iowa's Nurses

Prepared by the Office of Senator Tom Harkin

Senator Harkin has been a long time supporter and advocate of nurses. He understands and appreciates the critical role nurses play in the health care delivery system. Especially in times like these, it is incredibly important that we take care of our nurses who do such a good job taking care of us.

AS CHAIR OF THE LABOR HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE, SENATOR HARKIN INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING INITIATIVES IN THE FY02 BILL

- 20% increase in funding for the National Institute of Nursing Research.
- Increased funding for the loan repayment program. This program offers student loan repayment to nurses in exchange for an agreement to serve not less than two years in an Indian health service center, native Hawaiian health center, public hospital, community or migrant health center, or rural health clinic.
- Increased funding for nursing education for basic nurse education and practice, advanced education nursing and nursing workforce diversity.
- A study to be done by the Secretary of Health and Human Services to analyze nurse educational and training programs and develop recommendations for improvement of recruitment and retention efforts.



2001 LEGISLATION

- Original cosponsor of Nurse Reinvestment Act of 2001, which would establish a Nurse Service Corps that would fund scholarships, grants for continuing education, recruitment and training, and enhanced loan repayment programs.
- Introduced the Medicare Fairness in Reimbursement Act, or FAIR. This would bring \$1 billion to Iowa, which would provide more money for the health system and workforce.
- Sponsored Fair Pay Act, which targets jobs dominated by women and requires employers to provide equal pay for jobs that are comparable in skill and responsibility.
- Secured \$900,000 for laptop computers for home health visits made by public health nurses.
- Original cosponsor of bill to increase payment rates to nurse practitioners.
- Amendment to the Patient's Bill of Rights that prevents discrimination of nurses and other non-MD health care professionals by HMOs.
- Anesthesia Services Preservation Act, which supports the independent practice of nurse anesthetists in hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers under Medicare.