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13-052

SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL NURSE ACT (HR 3679)

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REPORT: PCC recognizes that the rise in chronic preventable conditions affect our students' lives and, therefore, impact their ability to be academically successful, and that the \$1.3 trillion currently spent managing these preventable conditions could be made available to promote health and education(Milken Institute, 2007)  
([www.milkeninstitute.org/publications](http://www.milkeninstitute.org/publications))

The National Nurse Act of 2011 (HR 3679) amends the Public Health Service Act to establish the position of National Nurse for Public Health within the Office of the Surgeon General and includes among the duties of such position providing 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, conducting media campaigns, and providing guidance and leadership for activities that will increase public safety and emergency preparedness. The National Nurse Act requires the National Nurse for Public Health to:

- (1) Participate in identification of national health priorities,
- (2) Encourage volunteerism of nurses and strengthen the relationship between government agencies and health-related national organizations, and
- (3) Promote the dissemination of evidence-based practice in educating the public on health promotion and disease prevention activities.

PCC faculty have conceptualized and are leading the national effort for this legislation, and the entire Oregon House Congressional Delegation, the OR State Legislature, and many recognized Oregon organizations, including the OR Nurses Association and many Oregon community leaders have endorsed the National Nurse Act and plans are

underway for a companion bill in the Senate to be introduced by Senator Jeff Merkley (OR). This bill is non-partisan, does not require additional allocations/funding, and can be implemented immediately.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board of Directors the Portland Community College Board support the National Nurse Act and endorse it by becoming a signatory on the Endorsement Page of the National Nurse for Public Health Website (<http://nationalnurse.org/endorsements.shtml>)

And that the Portland Community College Board recommend to the Association of Community College Trustees to become a signatory of the National Nurse for Public Health Website and to approve the creation of a link on the Endorsement Page of the National Nurse website to the ACCT website.