



ANNA Urges Congress to Support and Pass the United States Cadet Nurse Corps Service Recognition Act 2019 (H.R. 2056/S. 997)

The American Nephrology Nurses Association (ANNA) is a nonprofit organization with a membership of over 8,500 registered nurses and other health care professionals at all levels of practice. ANNA members work in settings such as chronic kidney disease management, peritoneal dialysis, hemodialysis, continuous renal replacement therapy, transplantation, industry, and government and regulatory agencies.

The U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps established during World War II was an integrated, uniformed service of the Public Health Administration providing training of nurses for the armed forces, governmental and civilian hospitals, health agencies, and war industries. At the time, the Nurse Corps was the largest federal nurse-training program. Nearly 120,000 nurses were members of the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps, honorably serving in military and Veterans Administration hospitals until the program ended in 1948. In spite of their contribution to our country and war effort, Cadet Nurse Corps members are not eligible for the same types of recognition as other civilian and military groups that served during World War II.

In an effort to recognize their service, Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) and Representative Cheri Bustos (D-IL-17) along with a bipartisan group of other Members of Congress, introduced the *United States Cadet Nurse Corps Service Recognition Act* (H.R. 2056/S. 997). The legislation would do the following:

- Provide Cadet Nurses with veterans status, with an honorable discharge from service where merited;
- Provide Cadet Nurses with burial benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs; and
- Allow the Secretary of Defense to provide honorably discharged Cadet Nurses with a service medal, but would not provide still-living Cadet Nurses with Veterans Affairs pensions, healthcare benefits, or other privileges afforded to former active-duty service members.

Recommendation: ANNA joins with Nursing Community Coalition in urging Members of Congress to cosponsor the United States Cadet Nurse Corps Service Recognition Act (H.R. 2056/S. 997). As the average age of these nurses increases, it is imperative that the legislation is passed by Congress to provide long overdue recognition of these service members.