

V.I. STATE NURSES ASSOCIATION NEWS

SUMMER 2017

CONGRATULATIONS

BSN GRADUATES OF UVI

Antonia T. Alexander, Naomi Commodore, Samantha C. Daniel, Rosemary Dennery-Francis, Shahara-Ann M. Donastorg, Kishela S. lake, Shanice A. Laurent, Yehiyubi A.O. Abreu, Renita O. Phillip, Jiva A.S. Niles, Shanice A. Turnbull, Christine A. Udyecz, Danielle D. Woods, Indra S. Wrensford

ASN GRADUATES OF UVI

Elizabeth Harding, Francis Jacksrrria James, Chantauh Marshall, Evelisse Santiago, Sarah Williams, Letitia Wise



NIGHTINGALE TRIBUTE

MAGNOLIA SIMPSOM, FLORINE DIAZ,
RITA PHILLIPS, WISTERIA KRIGGER,
BERECIA REED, ELLEN EMANUEL,
LYNETTE SYLVESTER



DISTRICT 01 CELEBRATES THE
OPENING OF NURSES WEEK WITH THE
TRADITIONAL CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

2017 NURSES WEEK THEME

HEALTHY NURSE: HEALTHY NATION



VISNA and GUAM Delegation with V.I. Congressman Stacey Plaskett and lead staff for Health Jeffrey Nowill. Please visit the VISNA website, visnaus.org, for ANA Membership Assembly 2017 highlights.

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

U.S. Territories Deserve Equitable Health Care

Cosponsor H.R. 2404, Improving the Treatment of the U.S. Territories Under Federal Health Programs Act.

Dear Colleague:

Nearly four million Americans reside in the United States territories of the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands. As Americans, they deserve just as much access to the federal health programs as anyone else.

Yet, compared to the States and the District of Columbia, the Medicaid and Medicare programs provide significantly less federal financial participation to U.S. territories. Regarding Medicaid, the most egregious distinctions include a cap on federal financial participation at an amount that has no relationship to local needs, an arbitrarily low Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) limit, and exclusion from the disproportionate share hospital (DSH) program. The territories are currently forced to operate under an even lower per-capita cap than that proposed this session for the States and the District of Columbia.

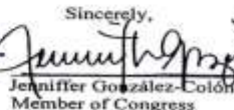
With the territories facing high rates of poverty, this treatment has resulted in a lack of access to medical care for many Americans, including children, for no other reason than where they reside. It has also had unfair and deleterious impacts on the finances of local governments and hospitals. Accordingly, the Bipartisan Congressional Task Force on Economic Growth in Puerto Rico found in its final report last year that "the territories should be treated in a more equitable and sustainable manner under the Medicaid program," and Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price testified before the Senate Finance Committee that "[w]e absolutely, have to find the resources to make sure (the territories) have the health care they need."

We agree, and have sponsored H.R. 2404, Improving the Treatment of the U.S. Territories Under Federal Health Programs Act of 2017, to correct these and other inequities. Specifically, the bill would lift the territories' annual Medicaid per-capita cap and arbitrarily low FMAP limit, and provide an equitable formula for Medicaid and Medicare DSH payments. The bill also includes additional provisions for improved treatment of territories under Medicare, and a report on their practical exclusion from the exchanges under the Affordable Care Act.

Please join us in co-sponsoring this legislation and help send a message that the territories deserve better and to be treated fairly. Should you have any questions or wish to sign on, please contact Jeffrey Nowill (x51790) in Representative Plaskett's office.

Sincerely,


Stacey E. Plaskett
Member of Congress


Jennifer González-Colón
Member of Congress


Madeleine Z. Bordallo
Member of Congress


Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen
Member of Congress


Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress


José E. Serrano
Member of Congress

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WE ARE MISSING YOU! PLEASE REJOIN US!

We understand the need for an increase in the Staff Collective Bargaining fees but many of you dropped your professional dues.

Did you know that VISNA/ANA dues enable you to: say what VISNA does for you, run for elective office, represent VISNA nationally, access the extensive practice, leadership and educational offerings on the ANA website, speak for the nursing profession, and advocate for your patients/clients? Several important decisions are facing VISNA at this time. Help decide YOUR professional future. Please contact your HR Directors to reinstate the professional dues.

Contact Us

V.I. State Nurses Association

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V.I. STATE NURSES ASSOCIATION

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VISNA MEMBER

St. Croix District (01)

St. Thomas/St. John District (02)

SAVE THE DATE

OCTOBER 7 & 8, 2017

VISNA BIENNIAL CONVENTION

St. Thomas, U.S.V.I.

VISNA and ANA Bylaws amendments, possible re-structuring of VISNA, reports from the Board of Nurse Licensure, the School of Nursing and the Nurse Representatives on the hospitals' Boards, BSN by 2020 opportunities, CEUs and election of a new Board of Directors highlight the convention.

USE THE POWER OF YOUR DUES

CALL TO NOMINATIONS 2017-19 BIENNIUM

The Virgin Islands State Nurses Association issues the initial call for nomination of eligible members to serve for the upcoming biennium. The following positions are open.

OFFICERS: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer (one each)

DIRECTORS: Four

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: A minimum of five (5)

REPRESENTATIVE to ANA MEMBERSHIP ASSEMBLY: A minimum of two

DELEGATE to CARIBBEAN NURSES ORGANIZATION CONVENTION: A minimum of two

Persons desirous of being nominated should have governance experience, in depth awareness of VISNA's structure and operation, full membership and computer literacy. CONSENT TO SERVE forms must be completed and further information will be given on availability and submission of these forms.

More information will be posted on worksite bulletin boards and VISNA website **visnaus.org**

Publisher

Joyce Heyliger
Executive Director