



**AMSNA Urges Congress to Support the
*United States Cadet Nurse Corps Service Recognition Act 2019 (H.R. 2568 and S. 1220)***

The Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses (AMSNA) is the only specialty nursing organization dedicated to the practice of medical-surgical nursing. AMSNA and its more than 10,000 members represent Medical-surgical nurses providing care to adults with a variety of medical issues or who are preparing for/recovering from surgery. Medical-surgical nursing is practiced in several settings across the health care industry, including hospitals, outpatient settings, in homes, via telemedicine and other non-traditional settings.

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. Despite 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 bipartisan support, introduced the United States Cadet Nurse Corps Service Recognition Act (H.R. 2568 and S. 1220). The legislation would do the following:

- Provide Cadet Nurses with veteran 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: As the average age of these nurses increases, it is imperative that Congress pass this legislation to provide long overdue recognition of these service members. AMSNA joins with Nursing Community Coalition in urging Members of Congress to cosponsor the *United States Cadet Nurse Corps Service Recognition Act (H.R. 2568 and S. 1220)*.