On March 25, 2010, U.S. Senators Jeff Merkley (D-OR), Mike Johanns (R-NE), Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) and Olympia J. Snowe (R-ME) announced the creation of the Senate Nursing Caucus "to strengthen the nursing profession and advance the goals of the nursing community." According to the caucus members, the Senate Nursing Caucus will come together to discuss issues affecting the nursing community and explore ways to enhance the role nurses play in the delivery of high-quality health care. The Senate Nursing Caucus will provide a forum to address issues such as the nursing shortage, burdensome tuition debt for nursing education, and patient safety issues. It will also serve as a forum for the nursing community to present ideas and share concerns about issues affecting the nursing profession. There are currently 12 Senators in this important caucus. The list of members appears below. To join, contact Susan Lexer, Office of Sen. Jeff Merkley, 202-224-3753.

Current Co-Chairs:
Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR)
Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-MD)

IOWA
Sen. Tom Harkin (D)

MAINE
Sen. Susan Collins (R)

MARYLAND
Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D)

MICHIGAN
Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D)

MINNESOTA
Sen. Al Franken (D)
Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D)

MISSISSIPPI
Sen. Roger Wicker (R)

NORTH CAROLINA
Sen. Kay Hagan (D)

NORTH DAKOTA
Sen. Heidi Heitkamp (D)

OREGON
Sen. Jeff Merkley (D)

SOUTH DAKOTA
Sen. Tim Johnson (D)

VERMONT
Sen. Bernie Sanders (D)