

HEALTH MANPOWER ACT OF 1968

TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 1968

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE,
COMMITTEE ON INTERSTATE AND FOREIGN COMMERCE,
Washington, D.C.

The subcommittee met at 10 a.m., pursuant to notice, in room 2322, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. John Jarman (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Mr. JARMAN. The subcommittee this morning is meeting to receive testimony on H.R. 15757, introduced by Chairman Staggers at the request of the administration, to extend the Health Professions Educational Assistance Act, the Nurse Training Act, the Allied Health Professions Personnel Training Act, the Health Research Facilities Act, and the authorities for traineeships and training grants in public health.

Each of these programs is proposed to be extended for 4 years, with the exception of the Allied Health Professions Personnel Training Act, which is proposed to be extended for 1 year so as to enable the Department to gain additional experience with this program before proposing a major extension.

The proportion of the gross national product spent on medical care and services has increased in recent years to over 6 percent, with an estimated \$45 billion a year spent for this purpose. All indications are that these expenditures, both in absolute and in relative terms, will increase in future years. This will require a substantial expansion in the numbers of persons in the health professions to meet the needs of the American people in future years. There are today about 3 million people in the health occupations. By 1975, at least another million will be needed.

Yet, as the President pointed out in his March 4 health message, "We lack the capacity to train today those who must serve us tomorrow."

This legislation will help provide the increased training capacity needed to meet our future needs for health manpower, both through providing construction assistance for new facilities, and through providing operational assistance to enable more people to be trained in existing facilities and to improve the quality of the training they receive.

Hearings have been completed on the companion legislation to H.R. 15757 before the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, and it is anticipated that the Senate bill, S. 3095, will be reported to the Senate in the near future. We hope to be able to complete early action on the measure before us today, so that we can get the legisla-