

atric education—and change its name to National Advisory Council on Health Professions Educational Assistance.

Student aid

There are a number of amendments in the bill which would adjust the health professions student loan program to provide greater incentives for participation in such programs as VISTA, and to encourage prompt repayment of loans as well as to increase to \$45 million the total amount of loans which may be made from the revolving fund to student loan funds.

We are also asking for greater flexibility in the administration of student assistance programs by the schools by permitting transfer of a percentage of the student capital contribution loan funds to the scholarship program and vice versa.

NURSE TRAINING

Title II of the bill would extend for 4 additional years the several authorizations contained in the Nurse Training Act—including grants for the construction of teaching facilities, institutional improvement grants, traineeships for advanced training of professional nurses, and the provision of loans and other forms of financial aid for nursing students. In addition, several significant program additions or modifications are proposed.

Construction

First, the construction grant authorizations would be modified in several ways. The bill would authorize the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare to increase the Federal share of construction costs in "unusual circumstances."

The period during which the facilities must be used for the purposes for which the grant was made would be reduced from 20 to 10 years. Because of the ongoing transition in nursing education and the factors of obsolescence and maintenance costs, many schools today are reluctant to undertake the longtime commitment of space required under the Nurse Training Act. Ten years would be consistent with construction grants for teaching facilities for the other health professions.

The bill would allow the inclusion in the construction project of space for advanced training that is not degree oriented. The present definition of programs has prevented the awarding of construction grants for advanced training space.

Institutional and special project grants

Second, the present authority for partial reimbursement of diploma schools would be replaced with a broader authority for institutional—formula grants to all three categories of nursing schools—diploma schools, associate degree schools, and collegiate schools.

The statutory program review committee on the Nurse Training Act recommended that this kind of support be provided to all types of nursing schools as it has been for educational programs of the other health professions. Costs of educating nurses have increased as for all health professions where the existence of a high faculty-student ratio is essential. All types of schools are finding it increasingly difficult to operate their expensive nursing programs and often impossible to expand enrollments, attract more highly qualified faculty or to strength-