

HEALTH MANPOWER ACT OF 1968

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 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 will please be in order.

We continue today the hearings on H.R. 15757, to amend the Public Health Service Act to extend and improve the programs relating to the training of nursing and other health professions and allied health professions personnel, the programs relating to student aid for such personnel, and the program relating to health research facilities and for other purposes.

Our first witness this morning is our colleague from New York, the Honorable Thaddeus Dulski. You may proceed as you wish Mr. Dulski.

STATEMENT OF HON. THADDEUS J. DULSKI, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Mr. DULSKI. Mr. Chairman, I commend you for arranging these hearings on ways to deal with the increasing shortage of health manpower.

President Johnson spelled out the problem very clearly in his health message to Congress last March 4.

I have been particularly concerned with the urgent necessity for more nurses. The nursing shortage is a severe national problem and one that we must face if we are to meet our responsibility to society.

Last November 28, I introduced legislation calling for establishment of a temporary 5-year program of Federal assistance. My proposal would help not only the nursing schools to reestablish their financial footing, but also would give limited tuition help to student nurses.

I believe very strongly that these steps are in order.

Congress sought to deal with the shortage of nurses in 1964 with the Nurse Training Act which I supported. We had high hopes for that program, but it developed that so many schools already were in such financial plight that they could not qualify for assistance.

It is not only the nursing schools that are having their financial difficulties, but also the would-be students. In their effort to meet