

operating costs, schools have had to raise tuition rates to a point which is now beyond what many students can afford.

In your deliberations, Mr. Chairman, I am sure that you will receive considerable expert testimony and many suggestions for dealing with the health personnel shortage.

I have no pride in authorship of a solution. I do have intense interest in practical and prompt action toward alleviating the shortage.

Mr. Chairman, be assured of my full and continuing cooperation and thank you for hearing my observations.

Mr. JARMAN. Thank you for your brief statement Mr. Dulski. Your views will most assuredly be given every consideration by the committee.

Our next witness is also a colleague. We are pleased to have the Honorable Frances Bolton with us this morning. Please proceed as you wish Mrs. Bolton.

STATEMENT OF HON. FRANCES P. BOLTON, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF OHIO

Mrs. BOLTON. Mr. Chairman, thank you for giving me an opportunity to submit a statement in connection with the hearings on H.R. 15757, the Health Manpower Act of 1968. For many years my colleagues in the House have known of my deep concern with the needs of the American people for adequate health care in general and for nursing services in particular.

Last fall I introduced H.R. 13937, to provide assistance to hospital diploma schools of nursing, as follows: (1) annual grants ranging from \$12,000 to \$24,000 per school, depending upon enrollment; (2) up to \$6,000 per school on a 50-50 matching basis to improve library resources; (3) \$400 per pupil grants to each school; (4) annual grants based on 75-25 percent Federal-State matching for establishment of and operation of a State comprehensive planning committee for nursing education.

If we are to meet the nursing needs of the Nation the essential role of the hospital diploma schools must be recognized. These schools now supply about 75 percent of new nurses, but in spite of their importance more and more of them are going out existence. The high costs of hospital service join with the rising costs of education to make these programs prohibitively expensive to the average individual. Hospitals attempt to defray tuition and training costs, but they cannot do so much longer. The fact that the diploma schools have not had access to the public funds available for the other types of nursing schools—collegiate and associate degree—has been a serious handicap, and unless we recognize the special needs of the hospital schools more of them will be discontinuing operation.

I need not tell you that the shortage of nurses is acute. Unfortunately, only too often this problem is disregarded except by people who are sick and in dire need. The recently published review of the nursing situation by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare indicated that by 1975 we will have need for 1 million nurses. Presently, there are approximately 640,000 registered nurses in practice; the current need is estimated to be for 775,000 registered nurses.