

The association's ultimate purpose is to secure for the people of this country the best possible nursing care. One commitment is to elevate the standards of nursing education to insure nursing practice of high quality.

I welcome this opportunity to appear here today on behalf of the American Nurses Association to present its views on H.R. 15757, the Health Manpower Act of 1968. We support assistance to the various schools preparing health personnel in the bill. However, our special concern is with title II, nurse training, which would extend for 4 more years the Nurse Training Act of 1964.

CONSTRUCTION GRANTS

We urge the continuation of the construction grant program for 4 more years. Since the program began in fiscal year 1966, 80 schools have received grants. Much of the construction is in the beginning stage but close to 2,700 new first-year places will result. Many of the grants were awarded for replacement of obsolete facilities and for minor expansion. These have permitted the maintenance of 12,000 student places that otherwise might have been lost.

We are very concerned that although the Congress authorized \$25 million for construction of facilities in fiscal year 1969, the administration request is for only \$8 million.

The Program Review Committee on the Nurse Training Act noted that many programs are still located in makeshift quarters such as barracks, dormitories, and basement areas that are unsafe and poorly ventilated. For example, one nearby university nursing program has 11 offices available for a faculty of something over 70, and I speak with real feeling about this. This is the University of Maryland, the school from which I come, and we have, counting all of the students in the school, something like 1,100 students. We had the plans and the money for the new school building and then it was caught in this last freeze. We are hoping that it will be unfrozen and we will then have enough offices for everybody. In the meantime, faculty are using the trunks of their cars to carry teaching materials.

Until such facilities are replaced, schools cannot expand enrollments. Students are inclined to select attractive schools and faculty choose schools with modern equipment that permits more effective teaching. It gives us a bit of a start to hire a new faculty member and when she says, "Where is my office," you say, "There is not any."

We support the inclusion in the construction project of space for advanced training activities, such as continuing education, that are not degree oriented. Continuing education is a great imperative in this time of rapid change in medical and nursing practice. There is a heavy burden on the individual practitioner to keep current and on the employers of nurses to develop the most economical and effective means of bringing and keeping nursing service personnel up to date. Improved utilization of scarce health manpower cannot be accomplished without changes in traditional functions and organizational patterns and change will only occur through new learning. This is where we need continuing education. Research and innovation in the delivery of nursing services must be supported and implemented through comprehensive programs of job orientation and inservice education. In addition to increasing the future supply of nurse man-