

nursing requires concentrated study at the graduate level in the selected area. Once prepared, this nurse uses her specialist's competence in providing direct care to patients needing expert nursing. She collaborates with the physician in planning and providing patient care, and works with, and teaches, other nursing personnel during the provision of nursing care and treatment. She may teach in schools of nursing and in programs of continuous education. She conducts and participates in clinical research. Highly qualified expert nurses to practice in specialized areas of nursing are essential to improvement in the quality of care.

To pursue a doctoral program in nursing requires a large expenditure of money for tuition, books, and supplies, and maintenance over at least a 3-year period. Nurses engaged in doctoral work have been previously employed, hence have loss of income during the 3 years of study. As a typical example: Tuition for 2 academic years is likely to be \$3,800; books and supplies for 3 years, \$600; living expenses for 3 years—2 academic years and 1 year of work on dissertation—\$9,000; total, \$13,400. Loss income for 3 years when the nurse is not gainfully employed, is likely to be \$26,000, so it is really is a high-cost operation.

We support the recommendation of the Program Review Committee of the Nurse Training Act that administrative policy regarding duration of support under the traineeship program be changed to permit completion of program requirements.

We would also like to call your attention to the fact that over 8,000 registered nurses, graduates of associate degree and diploma programs, are studying for a baccalaureate degree. In 1966, 4,009 were enrolled on a part-time basis. Part-time study is uneconomical in terms of time, money, and effort but this practice persists because on their salaries, nurses cannot save enough to undertake full-time study and there is very little financial assistance available to them. Before they earn their baccalaureate degree, many will have spent 6 or 7 years in part-time study. The American Nurses Association agrees with the recommendation of the Program Review Committee that traineeships for graduates of diploma and associate degree programs be provided for up to 2 years of full-time study toward a baccalaureate degree. This would help registered nurses secure more rapidly the level of education their positions call for today and enhance the quality of patient care. I cannot cite figures across the country, but again, in our own graduate program roughly half of the full-time students have come from diploma and associate degree programs, and the other half have come from baccalaureate programs. This means, then, that for those who have come from diploma and junior college programs, they have had for the most part, to spend several years earning a baccalaureate degree. The primary problem is that they have had to go to school part time, and this is long, slow way of doing it and we would get them through the master's program much faster if we could speed them in.

STUDENTS LOANS

We support the extension of the student loan program. H.R. 15757 would increase the maximum amount a student may borrow to \$1,500 in any academic year. Because the cost of nursing education in senior colleges and universities is, for the most part, higher than in junior