

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Chairman, may I join with you in saying we are delighted to see you gentlemen here. Certainly, your representative here in Washington does a very excellent job, as I am sure you are aware, for the association in keeping your views before the Congress very effectively.

Mr. WILLIAMSON. Thank you, Mr. Rogers.

Mr. BLAIR. H.R. 15757 is a bill 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 program relating to health research facilities, and for other purposes.

We strongly support the purposes of this legislation and highly commend the Congress for its recognition of the essentiality of the Federal Government participating substantially in programs to alleviate the severe shortage of health manpower. As the committee is well aware, the Federal Government is sponsoring a number of programs which guarantee health services to various groups of the population. The result is an ever-increasing demand for health trained personnel. The continued advances in medical care and improved procedures within hospitals depend upon increased numbers of highly skilled personnel for their application to the public.

We are particularly pleased that H.R. 15757 proposes bringing together several existing programs. These are programs affecting medical schools, dental schools and others; programs involving schools in training of nurses together with various forms of assistance provided students in all of these schools as well as the assistance provided the various allied health professions. This should result in greater coordination and improved administration overall of the programs.

We cannot stress too strongly the magnitude of the need for greater numbers of highly skilled health personnel and the critical nature of the demand in terms of the overall health of the Nation. We believe the sums proposed for carrying out the programs are modest in relation to the needs and we hope the Congress will recognize this great need and authorize such sums as are found to be necessary to fully fund the programs.

TITLE I—HEALTH PROFESSIONS TRAINING

This section proposes to continue the program providing for the construction of needed teaching facilities and provides various forms of assistance to students in several of the health professions. The bill proposes certain changes which should improve the administration of the program and enhance its potential contribution toward meeting the very pressing need for greatly increased numbers of physicians, dentists and others. We fully support this section of the bill and believe it to be a vitally needed program.

TITLE II—NURSE TRAINING

As the members of the committee are undoubtedly aware, the American Hospital Association and the hospitals of the Nation, have voiced strong support for H.R. 13096, introduced by Congressman Rooney. Fifty-nine additional members either cosponsored Congressman Rooney's bill or introduced similar bills. Many of these Congress-