

tant group on nursing as long as 5 years ago. In their report of February 1963, that group projected the 1970 needs of professional nurses and foresaw the fulfillment of those needs primarily from hospital schools of nursing. They found the following:

(The data referred to follows:)

	1961 graduates	1970 goals	Total increase
Baccalaureate -----	4,039	8,000	3,961
Associate degree -----	917	5,000	4,083
Diploma -----	25,311	40,000	14,689

Mr. BLAIR. The increase in the diploma programs amounted to twice that of the other two combined.

While the situation continues to become more critical hospital schools which are the major producer of the nurses needed by the Nation (78 percent of the total last year), are closing. There has been an average of 10 schools closing each year for the past 5 years and at the present time 74 hospital schools are making plans to cease operations. Hospitals operating schools of nursing cannot continue to pass on to their patients the ever-increasing financial deficits incurred from the operation of these schools. The criticism of rising hospital costs is such that the boards of trustees of greater and greater numbers of hospitals operating schools of nursing feel compelled to close their schools. It makes very little sense to us to see hospital schools close where they have faculty, buildings and equipment available to produce the needed nurses; and at the same time to see new campus facilities being constructed with an enormous economic waste. Certainly, immediate action on this section of the bill and making it effective July 1, 1968, instead of July 1, 1969, as proposed, might go far toward forestalling the closing of many of the schools.

Though title II provides the vehicle for the much-needed assistance to diploma schools of nursing as well as to the collegiate and junior college programs, we believe the funds provided for in the bill are inadequate to meet the need.

Following are comments on specific sections of title II.

Part A—Construction grants

Section 201 amends the present act and gives equal recognition to all schools of nursing. This association strongly endorses each of the three types of schools of nursing and recognizes fully their respective roles. We approve, therefore, the construction assistance which would be provided to all three types of schools.

Section 205 makes collegiate schools eligible for construction grants for advanced training facilities. Inasmuch as advanced training is in no wise limited to collegiate schools, we recommend this amendment provide for facility construction assistance to all schools participating in advanced training. This could be accomplished by a similar amendment to section 483(d) and (e).

Under the bill the benefits of this section will not become effective until after June 30, 1969. Although we realize there are serious budgetary problems, we recommend that if at all possible because of the seriousness of the situation, the effective date be June 30, 1968.

Part B—Special projects and institutional grants to schools of nursing

Section 211 amends section 805 of the act. We believe this is an important section of the bill. The provisions have been broadened so as