

BOSTON UNIVERSITY,
SCHOOL OF NURSING,
Boston, Mass., February 2, 1968.

Hon. PHILIP J. PHILBIN,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

MY DEAR REPRESENTATIVE PHILBIN: I wish to express my opposition to the H.R. 13096, introduced by Representative Fred B. Rooney, and S. 2549, introduced by Senator Lister Hill. The purpose of both bills is to prevent attrition and promote development of public and nonprofit private diploma schools of nursing.

Experience with similar provisions of the Nurse Training Act of 1964 demonstrated that payments to diploma schools has not decreased student attrition, nor has it developed these programs. There was a net decline of 24 diploma programs during 1966.

However, during the same period, there was an increase of 32 programs in junior community and four-year colleges. Money should be appropriated to assist these two types of programs in expansion. Support should be made to nursing programs in general, with no designation of type of program. You are undoubtedly aware of the recent discussions in the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare about whether the Federal Government should enter the field of accreditation of institutions of higher education. The belief was accepted by all concerned that, in a democracy, voluntary nongovernmental type of accreditation was the wisest path to follow.

I would also like to make a very *strong* plea that nurses be included on all committees established by Congress to consider health and welfare. All legislation should be so stated. Nursing is such an essential aspect of all health and welfare programs that it is practically impossible for any group to plan for the best health care for the people without consultation with, and the cooperative thinking of, the nurse.

Sincerely yours,

ANNE KIBRICK, Ed. D., Dean.

OKLAHOMA BOARD OF NURSE REGISTRATION AND NURSING EDUCATION,
Oklahoma City, Okla., June 24, 1968.

Hon. HARLEY O. STAGGERS,
Chairman, Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: H.R. 15757, the Health Manpower Amendments of 1968 has been considered recently by the Public Health and Welfare Subcommittee of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce. Title II of this bill would extend the Nurse Training Act of 1964 for four more years. We solicit your support of this bill and believe that the "Program Review Report of the Nurse Training Act of 1964" (PHS publication No. 1740) will verify the value of this Act, as well as provide guidance for the Congress in this most important matter.

Section 231 of H.R. 15757 proposes a change in the definition of accreditation which is of great concern to us as the state approving agency for schools of nursing in the state of Oklahoma. It is essential that schools of nursing receiving federal funds be accredited by a recognized national accrediting agency if proper use of federal funds is assured.

In most states, a state board of nursing has the legal responsibility for approving schools of nursing which meet *minimum standards* established by the statute and regulations. Accreditation by a recognized national accrediting agency is evidence that the school of nursing meets *more than* minimum standards. The quality of nursing education is seriously threatened if this clause is not deleted.

We request that you also consider the types of pressure which can be exerted in the various states on an administrative agency and the likelihood that this would result in even lower standards, in some instances.

Your interest and support for our concern regarding this legislation are sincerely appreciated.

(Miss) FRANCES I. WADDLE, R.N.,
Executive Director.