

The Honorable Rep. Doris Matsui
Statement for the Record on
H.R. 959 Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2017
June 27, 2018

The markup of all of the legislation before us today is an important step in advancing preventive care and bolstering our healthcare system.

In particular, I am encouraged that we are considering H.R. 959 which supports our nursing workforce. Nurses are truly on the front lines of patient care, and, as this committee has started to address the opioid crisis, a thriving nursing workforce is more important than ever. H.R. 959 recognizes the value of investing in the education and retention of our nation's nursing workforce by reauthorizing programs such as the Advanced Nursing Education Grants or the NURSE Corps Loan Repayment and Scholarship Program.

In my own state of California, we recently recovered from a nursing shortage, which is an example of why reauthorizing the Title Eight nursing workforce program is integral to preventing another one. I thank my colleague, Rep. David Joyce, for working with me on the Title Eight Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act.

As a nation, we face an ever-growing geriatric population and caregivers will be reliant on medical professionals of all types and we should invest in training that workforce, now. That is why I'm pleased that The EMPOWER Act includes the Geriatrics Workforce bill I authored with my friend, Congresswoman Schakowsky.

Sometimes, I am concerned that we react to public health crises rather than adequately preparing for or working in advance to prevent them. However, I appreciate that the Committee is focusing on this important legislation because it invests early and will result in professionals who prioritize patient care. I urge my colleagues to support this bill. Thank you, I yield back.