

Michaud Pushes Bill to Help End the Nursing Workforce Crisis

Thursday, March 12 2009

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“Nursing is an extremely rewarding career and one that is highly in demand,” said Michaud. “Unfortunately, about one out of every three qualified applicants is turned away from nursing schools due to a shortage of qualified faculty members to train them. In the current economic downturn with high rates of unemployment, it is essential to connect Americans with career fields such as nursing that are secure and growing. This cannot go unaddressed. If it does, we will face a health care delivery crisis that will affect thousands of families seeking care.”

The nationwide shortage of more than 200,000 registered nurses is projected to grow to over one million nurses by 2020. Due to the great demand for registered nurses, qualified nurses have little incentive to become nurse educators – particularly because the average annual salary for nurse educators is at least 20% less than their counterparts in clinical practice. In addition, a large percentage of current nurse faculty members – as much as 70% in some schools – are approaching retirement within the next few years. With some estimates placing the current faculty shortage at nearly 10%, this crisis could escalate without action to address it.

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