

June 7, 2007: Support the Loan Forgiveness Act

The Honorable Loretta Sanchez

SUPPORT THE LOAN FORGIVENESS ACT OF 2007

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Mr. Speaker, our country is facing a severe shortage of registered nurses. The situation is well-documented. The Journal of the American Medical Association has stated that, without changes, the United States will have a shortage of more than 400,000 nurses by the year 2020. To date, there has been limited government action to address this very national need.

Effective health care delivery relies on an adequate supply of well-educated health care professionals, so this week I introduced H.R. 2572, the Nurse Loan Forgiveness Act of 2007, to expand the supply and to help provide for the education of registered nurses, because nurses play a principal role in the health care delivery system in various settings, in hospitals, in home health agencies, in long-term care facilities, managed care centers and community health clinics.

The Nurse Loan Forgiveness Act would forgive up to \$17,000 in Federal loans over a 5-year period for people who have worked in a hospital at least 1 year. If they continue to work, they would be able to, over time, have that entire amount forgiven.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that the Congress has the ability to take action on this critical issue, and I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this very important legislation.