

Another prescription?

Carrie Conaway's article, "Diagnosis: Shortage" (Q4 2001), was excellent, except it left out one important reason for the shortage of registered nurses.

Foreign countries, particularly the Philippines, train nurses (in English) specifically to enable them to work abroad. From 1952 to 1995, the United States brought in more than 100,000 of these nurses to work in hospitals on temporary visas. Due to union pressure, the temporary visa program was eliminated in 1995. Restoration would help to relieve pressure on overworked nurses and increase the nurse-to-patient ratio at beleaguered U.S. hospitals.

The solutions that Ms. Conaway mentioned in her article will take time and money. Restoration of the temporary visa program for RNs would take effect immediately, and at no cost to the taxpayers.

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