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SUMMARY: IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY JOHN WILSON
PROPOSES REMEDY FOR NURSING SHORTAGE

Citing state and national statistics foreshadowing a nursing problem of crisis proportions, Attorney John Wilson of the Concord law firm, Goff & Wilson, P.A., proposed a workable solution – increase international recruiting efforts.

At a recent (May 8) seminar at the Bedford Village Inn attended by NH health care executives, Wilson said that 126,000 nurses are needed in the US right now, according to the American Hospital Association. US Department of Labor statistics indicate a much more critical figure of 794,000 nurses needed by 2008, Wilson said. In NH last year, he added, nursing schools graduated only 150 nurses compared to the 500 needed, and by 2012, the nursing shortage in NH alone would rise to 1250 unless corrective steps are taken now.

“There are a lot of concerns right now on nursing as a profession and why it isn’t a first career choice for more young people,” Wilson said. “These concerns will hopefully lead to changes that will alleviate the shortage. But the results could be years away.

“Foreign born nurses are available much sooner, and they’re motivated. They are highly educated, hard working and experienced, and US health care is a desirable career destination for them.

“A foreign nurse can be employed in as little as 3 months after being identified and obtaining a green card in approximately one year,” he concluded.

Goff & Wilson’s focus is immigration counsel for health care facilities and corporations throughout the US. Service is delivered to foreign nationals directly or through their US employers to secure visas, work permits, and permanent residence. Goff & Wilson offers full service in this field, including translators for most languages. Inquiries originate directly from foreign nationals, US employers seeking skilled workers overseas, and by referrals from other law firms.

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