

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 10440 PROPOSED BY NATIONAL REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION

The principal heading for title V shall be revised to read "Family Unity and Rehabilitation Through Jobs."

A new "Part B" is added as follows:

PART B—REHABILITATION THROUGH JOBS

SEC. 503. The purpose of this part is to assist in initiating, extending, and improving rehabilitation services for physically and/or mentally handicapped persons, including those unemployed individuals whose inability to secure and maintain employment is heavily influenced by economic and cultural deprivation.

PAYMENTS FOR EXTENSION AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

SEC. 504. In order to stimulate the expansion by the States of programs designed to help handicapped individuals achieve independence and productive capacity, the Director is authorized to transfer funds appropriated or allocated to carry out the purposes of this act to the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare to enable him to make payments to the States for extension and improvement projects under section 3 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act. (29 U.S.C. 41.)

The costs of such projects to the United States for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1965, shall, notwithstanding the provisions of such act, be met entirely from funds appropriated or allocated to carry out the purposes of this act and the limitation on the duration of projects and the allotment provisions of section 3 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act are waived.

NATIONAL REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO H.R. 10440

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Question. Why is it desirable that a part of this bill refer specifically to services to handicapped people?

Answer. Physically and mentally handicapped people constitute a large proportion of the poverty stricken in this country. For instance, the U.S. Department of Labor reports that 12 percent of those applying for training under the manpower development and training programs are physically handicapped. Most of these cannot be served effectively without special services not ordinarily available in State and local training programs. The inclusion of the mentally retarded and emotionally ill would increase this percentage sharply. Handicapped people usually feel poverty first and are affected most deeply. Since handicapped people require special treatment for their rehabilitation, they are likely to be neglected, unless special provisions are made for them.

2. Question. Why should this program be administered through the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare?

Answer. It is assumed that the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare will assign responsibility to the Vocational Rehabilitation Administration, which administers the Federal aspects of the State-Federal vocational rehabilitation program. The Vocational Rehabilitation Administration has a long history of successful administration of vocational rehabilitation, including research, training, demonstration, and extension and improvement areas.

3. Question. How would the program operate in the States?

Answer. The Secretary would make grants to the States (vocational rehabilitation agencies) as under the Vocational Rehabilitation Act. Services would be provided under conditions of State vocational rehabilitation plans and such other policies as the Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity and the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare shall deem appropriate.

4. Question. Are the State vocational rehabilitation agencies prepared to carry out such a program?

Answer. Yes. These State agencies are well established, operating effectively and economically. They have been rehabilitating handicapped people for over 40 years. Practically all services are provided on the basis of economic need. If there ever has been a program devoted to constructive efforts to alleviate poverty in this country, it is the State-Federal program of rehabilitation. It already has contracts with hospitals, physicians, clinics, rehabilitation centers, sheltered workshops, vocational schools, and other vocational training institu-