

and Urban Development—should utilize the available services and facilities of other Federal agencies in carrying out the provisions of the act. Specific provision is also made for consultation with the Surgeon General of the Public Health Service with respect to any health or medical aspects of the program which may be involved in prescribing regulations. The provisions provide the basis for an effective working agreement between the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Public Health Service in the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, which insures that the competency of each agency is used most advantageously. Under such arrangements, the Public Health Service would participate in the development of regulations establishing standards for the organization of professional groups, and will assist in reviewing applications for the purpose of determining that all professional elements of a group practice exist and that projects are feasible.

It is our sincere conviction, Mr. Chairman, that this bill will serve as an effective stimulus to the development of the group practice of medicine and dentistry in our country. This bill will contribute to the improvement of medical care by bringing to more people the well-established advantages of group practice.

Finally, we urge that you enact this legislation to allow this limited, 4-year program, to begin operations. We contemplate making a careful study and evaluation of the effectiveness of the program over the course of these years.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this statement in support of this bill, and the identical bill introduced by Mr. Gonzalez. We shall be glad to answer any questions you may have.

Mr. BARRETT. Mr. Cohen, of course, we hear a great deal about manpower shortage, doctors, nurses, technicians, and so on. How does this fit into the picture? Would H.R. 9256 improve the situation at all?

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Chairman, it will help. But I must be frank in saying that we are faced in the United States with a tremendous shortage of doctors, dentists, nurses, medical technicians. With a net population growth of 3 million each year, and with incomes going up so that people want to purchase more and better medical care, we in the United States will be faced during the next decade or two with a very large problem of allocating our manpower and facilities to bring the miracles of medical science to all of our people.

As part of the total picture, this bill will help in a small way. It will make it possible for physicians and dentists working together in a group to deliver a higher quality of medical care and a greater quantity of medical care to people than they can do in acting separately. When physicians, let us say, work together as a group, sharing high-cost equipment and X-rays, using subprofessional help in giving the X-rays, and providing laboratory services, it helps to expand the competence of the physician to render more service. In that sense it would definitely help to deal with the manpower shortage that exists. And again, I would have to say, this is only one small piece of a large picture that we have to tackle.

Mr. BARRETT. Mr. Cohen, thank you for your very fine statement. I am quite sure it is going to be very helpful to our committee.

Mr. Fino?