A major barrier to the extension of this nonprofit comprehensive health care to many more millions of Americans is provision of capital loans that can be made available only through Government guarantees and a standby Government loan program when mortgage money is not available through private sources.

Gentlemen, you are well aware of the medical squeeze that our Nation is facing. Elderly people will be utilizing the coverage provided by the Government's supplementary medical insurance plan. Our population is increasing at a rate far outstripping the flow of new doctors. Prosperity and scientific advance are engendering a demand for more and better care. The increasing level of education is making millions more Americans aware of both the symptoms of illness and of the availability of treatment.

The war on poverty, furthermore, will generate massive and welcome advances in each of these areas.

We of GHAA want very much to help, and our affiliated plans want to be in a position to help the people achieve better health care.

As Churchill said, "Give us the tools."

We do not want a handout. We are not asking to be federally supported.

Citizens who want our kind of group health care know its value, and have shown they are ready to support it with their membership fees.

What we do want, and what we vitally need, is access to adequate financing. Our experience has taught us that we can gain it only with the assistance of the Federal Government.

That is why we in GHAA ask that you provide for guaranteed loans for terms of 25 years. We will show—as we have shown before—that our plans will provide economical care and will generate the income needed to maintain fair amortization rates as well as reasonable interest rates.

Your help will act as a catalyst to other nonprofit plans which have been patiently waiting in the wings ready to start when they can get needed financing. And I believe we will find that organization funds, foundations, and labor unions, when they can get a Federal Government guarantee, will feel it is possible to make the investments in health care that they wish to make.

Gentlemen, our purpose is to serve the people through prepaid group health care on a comprehensive, nonprofit basis, at a time when private practitioners of medicine as a group have achieved unprecedented financial prosperity. The group health plans, while making remarkable progress, have been handicapped in their growth by a relative inaccessibility of new capital.

The passage of H.R. 9256, I sincerely feel, will contribute to the solution of this pressing financial problem which has had serious impact on millions of our citizens.

Thank you.

(The attachments referred to follow:)