

greetings to you and express his regret that he could not be here today in person. Unfortunately, urgent business makes it impossible for him to be here but he wanted you to know that he looked forward to reading your testimony in the transcript of today's hearing.

Mr. Voorhis, you may continue.

**STATEMENT OF JERRY VOORHIS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
COOPERATIVE LEAGUE OF THE U.S.A.**

Mr. VOORHIS. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Jerry Voorhis, and I appear before the committee on behalf of the Cooperative League of the U.S.A., which organization I am privileged to serve as executive director and president for the last 19 years.

The Cooperative League is a national federation of all kinds of mutual and cooperative enterprises in the United States. Its affiliated organizations comprise about 16 million different families in their members, and they are owners of their own businesses which serve their needs for insurance, housing, marketing of farm crops, procurement of farm supplies, credit, health care electricity, and household needs. The purpose of the Cooperative League is to encourage the use of the voluntary self-help method of solving problems which individual families cannot solve alone.

Our support of the legislation before the committee has been repeatedly and specifically expressed by biennial congresses of the Cooperative League which is the supreme delegated authority of our organization.

The reasons for that support are as follows:

Like the Group Health Association of America, the Cooperative League believes in the better and more rational organization of medical care and health services in our country. We do not believe in the interference of professional practice of medicine by laymen. We believe that there are four basic elements in that more rational and effective organization. One is group practice of medicine by balanced groups of doctors and professional medical personnel. Another is prepayment of the costs of medical care on a budgeted basis so as to bring the best of modern medical care within reach of as large a percentage of our people as possible. A third is preventive, comprehensive, regular care, aimed at maintaining family health and keeping people out of hospitals rather than episodic medical care which is necessarily limited to attempting to cure disease after it has been serious. And the fourth element is the opportunity and the responsibility of groups of our citizens to act voluntarily in the formation of group health plans in collaboration with groups of their doctors and nurses.

Such plans are to be found all across our country, in all sorts of communities, among all kinds and groups of people. Their basic philosophy is that the doctor should be provided with an assured income as a reward for keeping people well instead of having to depend on an uncertain income derived from people after they have become sick.

We support this legislation—H.R. 9256—because we are convinced it is necessary if voluntary constructive action by consumers of health