

Federal legislation with respect to public education. More specifically I would like to call your attention to some aspects of proposed H.R. 6230 which is currently being reviewed.

Kentucky Revised Statute 156.035 gives to the State board of education the legal authority for the management and control of the public schools of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The State board of education, through necessity, needs and desires to understand fully the scope and impact of programs of an educational nature that are either fully or partially supported from Federal funds.

Based on the preceding factors, funds designated as aid to pre-school, elementary, and secondary education should be channeled through the U.S. Office of Education and in turn to the State departments of education and the local school districts in accordance with State laws.

The State board of education has for many years supported all attempts of the Kentucky Department of Education in providing opportunities for better and coordinated planning on short- and long-term bases. Just recently a "survey of surveys" of the department of education was completed under the direction of Dr. Finis Engleman. This survey pointed up the need for educational planning to continue in the legally constituted agencies of State government. Management consultants advocate close relationships between planning and operation.

The State board of education would like to go on record as supporting the idea of the need for better and more coordinated planning at the State level, but would oppose the basic concepts as proposed in part B of title V of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act under which much of the planning authority of the department of education would possibly be eliminated.

Currently, about 15 percent of the support for public education in Kentucky comes from Federal funds. I might add that 33 percent is local support and 52 percent is State support. This is a small portion of Kentucky's total school financing, but a category of money that requires an extraordinary amount of time in accountability and general control. Some of the difficulty arises from the categorical aid approach.

We believe Federal aid to the States for education should be based on a foundation-program principle which would be distributed to the State departments of education based on need and ability.

Many of the local school districts advise us that great difficulties are being experienced in areas of fiscal management, and especially in areas of planning for utilization of Federal funds. This has been especially true for title I. ESEA, funds. Final allotment figures were not known to the Commonwealth of Kentucky until late February, thereby creating much confusion in local school districts relative to budgetary matters.

It is recommended that the authorizations and appropriations for Federal aid to education programs be made early enough in the fiscal year preceding the school year they are to be made operative. This approach would seem to greatly assist school officials at the local and State levels.

Mr. Chairman, your prior remarks were very encouraging in that regard.