

in education, in training for work, in urban and rural areas. The purpose and direction it provides to communities and individuals is inspiring in them hope and confidence in their ability to achieve the best this society has to offer.

The Department of Health, Education, and Welfare is deeply interested in this legislation. Not only have we been delegated responsibility for carrying out certain aspects of the legislation, our ongoing programs and activities have benefited from the innovations developed under OEO's leadership. For, while the primary purpose of the Office of Economic Opportunity is to improve service and programs for the poor and to provide a clear focus on their particular needs, much of what the poverty program has learned with respect to delivering services and involving people to act in their own interest, for example, has broad application for the enrichment of the rest of our society as well.

It is essential that the Office of Economic Opportunity maintain its integrity and identity if the problems of poverty—which are still very much with us—are to receive the undivided attention they require. While a variety of agencies deal with the subject matter of many OEO programs, particularly the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, none focuses so directly on the needs of the poor and none has OEO's unique experience as a testing ground for new and imaginative concepts to serve individuals and groups of citizens. Both of these functions are of great importance if Government is to deal successfully with poverty and to test out concepts that may make significant progress toward meeting our social needs in a wide number of areas.

I want to express, therefore, HEW's strong support of Mr. Shriver's statement before this committee.

Now, I would like to discuss briefly, specific responsibilities that the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare has undertaken either by delegation from or other arrangements with OEO.

Title V—the work experience and training program of title V of the Economic Opportunity Act was delegated by the Office of Economic Opportunity to the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. Through this program operated by the Welfare Administration, funds are provided for projects designed to enhance the employability of needy persons who otherwise would not have the opportunity for constructive work experience and other needed training. Work experience and training is combined with the provision of social services. Most of those in the program are, in addition to being undereducated, often functionally illiterate, with few, if any, marketable skills, are also heads of needy families with a range of problems associated with the extremes of economic, social, and educational deprivation.

Social services, including family support, medical care, child care, homemaker services, and counseling, are made available to assist such persons in overcoming serious and longstanding personal and family problems that interfere with their efforts to become self-supporting and independent.

To date, about 160,000 persons have participated in the program; of these, a conservatively estimated 52 percent has met the program's