

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1967 3739

POUGHKEEPSIE, N.Y., July 12, 1967.

HON. CARL D. PERKINS,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. PERKINS: The Anti-Poverty program and particularly Job Corps has come in for a great deal of criticism during the last few months. During those same months I have been working with Women in Community Service recruiting and interviewing girls for Job Corps.

It is easy to take poverty for granted and accept it as inevitable; but I have found that when I have been confronted with girls who are desperately poor, who want very much to get themselves out of the situation in which they find themselves (and this can include petty crime, squalor, immoral surroundings) that I can no longer accept poverty. I want to do something about it! Job Corps is a concrete "something" which I can offer girls to help them to solve their almost insurmountable problems.

Please speak up for Job Corps. We women who are working with girls know that it is truly needed.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. R. WILLIAM VAETH,
Project Director, Poughkeepsie WICS.

FULTON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND CHILDREN SERVICES,
Atlanta, Ga., July 12, 1967.

HON. CARL PERKINS,
Chairman, House Committee on Education and Labor,
Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN PERKINS: In compliance with your request of July 6, 1967, I am pleased to submit the following statement concerning "Community Employment and Training Programs," which is under consideration by the members of the Committee of which you are Chairman in connection with the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, as revised in 1965 and 1966, and especially in relation to the proposed amendment designated in Section 122(a) copy of which was forwarded to me.

Our Department for several years in the past has employed and used sub-professionals in what we have considered a successful manner to perform duties which otherwise would have been assumed by professional casework and supervisory staff and/or to compliment same.

In 1961 when Surplus Food Distribution Program was initiated in Fulton County we used a combination of approximately 300 volunteers and temporary employees to handle a mass volume of certifications of approximately 25,000 individuals and heads of families determined eligible for surplus foods. Since the advent of the Economic Opportunity Act, we have also used both Neighborhood Aides employed by Economic Opportunity Atlanta (community action organization funded by OEO) and OEO VISTA volunteers to assist our regular casework staff in this function.

For several years we have used sub-professional clerical personnel to assist regular casework employees in securing information necessary to determine eligibility of applicants for Public Assistance grants. These persons have such tasks as the initial interview of applicants in intake waiting room, assisting them in filling out the required application forms, checking property records, bank accounts, insurance policies and other potential resources, and clearing with the various police departments as to whether such applicants had previous records of arrests or convictions.

Sub-professional personnel has been employed for many years in connection with our Homemaker Service Program; and recently after the Georgia State Department of Family and Children Services and the Georgia State Merit System had approved officially this staff to be used in our Department, we have increased the number of Homemakers and plan on further increasing the Homemaker staff in 1968.

During the past two years, we have used many Neighborhood Aides (employees of Economic Opportunity Atlanta)—23 in 1966, youths employed in the Neighborhood Youth Corps of EOA—11 in 1966, and in 1965 15 VISTA volunteers assigned by OEO. However, we discontinued our use of VISTA volunteers in 1966 due to an unfortunate situation which developed in which OEO officials from Washington did not use wise judgment and discretion in handling the relationship of one of our