

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1967 3741

It might be pointed out that use of the telephone directory as source of the persons polled probably eliminated some opinions from the poverty area which could be expected to vote on the favorable side.)

ELIZABETH A. NEIKES, *Astoria, Oreg.*

P.S.—The numerical breakdown on the responses to questionnaire will follow by air mail.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN,  
*Washington, D.C., August 7, 1967.*

HON. CARL D. PERKINS,  
*Chairman, Committee on Education and Labor,*  
*U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MR. PERKINS: The American Association of University Women would like to have this statement in support of the Economic Opportunity Amendments of 1967 included in the record of your Committee's hearings. We are in a position to speak affirmatively, from experience, of several parts of the anti-poverty conducted by the Office of Economic Opportunity.

Reports from our branches, which are now being reviewed, speak repeatedly of the involvement of AAUW members or of AAUW branches in implementation of these programs at the community level.

During the past two years approximately one third of our branches have studying the relationship of poverty to education under a programmed study topic Education: An Antidote to Poverty.

Earlier and even more frequently in the past two years as a result of this study, our members have been involved as volunteer workers in their communities. Some AAUW branches are sponsors of such programs as Operation Headstart, adult basic education, and other community programs serving the disadvantaged. Many of our members work professionally as counsellors, social workers or teachers in this field. We go into this detail to demonstrate to you that we in AAUW have first-hand knowledge of the many problems which the legislation before this Committee is designed to alleviate.

In our opinion conclusive evidence has been gathered to prove that extension and expansion of the War on Poverty is an imperative in the time that has elapsed since the enactment of PL 88-452.

Great strides have been made under the programs made possible by this legislation in providing basic education, basic skills and retraining for many who were formerly unemployable. Many disadvantaged children have been brought closer to the point where they were almost as able to take advantage of the educational opportunities open to them as are to the children from more privileged environments. Many families have received training and inspiration which have created a viable family unit.

It is not our purpose to restate the statistics on poverty which have already been reviewed by this Committee, but we would like to state that in our opinion the social evils of disease, delinquency, crime, immorality, ignorance and shiftlessness are by-products of poverty which are costly not only to the poor but to society as a whole. We believe every effort must be made to lessen these causes of the social unrest which now plague the country.

Because one of the principle interests of the Association throughout its history has been the advancement of education we are interested in Mrs. Green's proposal, HR 11586, to amend the Economic Opportunity Act to provide greater flexibility to the college work-study program by permitting an averaging of work hours over the semester (or quarter) and through maintaining contributions from the colleges at a low percentile level. From our experience we believe many smaller institutions and Junior Colleges would be forced to cut back their participation in this work-study program if the colleges share of the cost of this program is increased to the 25% called for by the present schedule.

We again thank you for the privilege of presenting our opinions to this Committee.

DR. VICTORIA SCHUCK,  
*Chairman, Legislative Program Committee.*

DR. LOIS ROTH,  
*Area Representative, Education Legislative Program Committee.*