

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1967 3793

limited our own program so drastically. We hope we may count on your help in preventing its repetition.

Sincerely,

Mrs. EDWARD WORZ, *President.*

STATEMENT OF MRS. ROGER STOVER, PRESIDENT, LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF RHODE ISLAND

The League of Women Voters of R.I. welcomes the opportunity to be heard by this distinguished committee of U.S. Senators.

During the past three years the R.I. League along with other leagues throughout the United States, has studied various aspects of the Economic Opportunity Act and we now support many of its programs.

At this hearing, however, we wish to confine our remarks to the Community Action Programs. It appears that CAP may be endangered by a lack of adequate appropriation by the Congress.

We fear that such a step would shackle the very real and often successful attempts at solving old problems in new and experimental ways. Many of the programs to which we point with pride today are a direct result of the ideas from those people who serve on the Boards of the Community Action Program coupled with the necessary federal funds to test them.

An example of how the Community Action Program has tackled one problem with an imaginative approach is taking place in Providence. It is called the "teenagers Probe Project", and involves teenagers interviewing potential teenage delinquents to discuss with them their problems. A common understanding has led to the healthy participation in "Drop-In" centers by the potential delinquents. This program has been so successful that it is being expanded to include an adult interviewers project.

Another example of ingenious experimentation is occurring in the city of Warwick where a foster grand-parents program is underway. This program brings together the needy elderly with institutionalized youth and creates a family-type atmosphere of warmth and guidance.

And also the successful South Providence tutorial program which exists today was stimulated by the Community Action Program.

We do not wish to infer that every program under the CAP has been an unqualified success. Indeed in 1965, 47% of the Neighborhood Youth Corps Projects in R.I. were under deserved attack. Since that time, however, remedial steps have been taken and today every Youth Corps project in our State meets the national criteria and is successful. Neither do we suggest that there is no room for improvement in some programs.

What we do feel, though, is that the CAP is a vital, innovative key to new solutions to the problems that are being faced today. Holding to the line of the "Status Quo" of the now-existing programs is simply not enough. New programs still must be sought in order to provide for a continuing process of answers to wide-spread problems. Funding for these projects should allow for ingenuity and experimentation.

We urge your committee to recommend to the Congress sufficient funds to provide for new and imaginative approaches in the hopes that the results will be as successful as many of the CAP-stimulated projects have already proven to be.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE
GREATER JUNEAU BOROUGH,
Juneau, Alaska, July 5, 1967.

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

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE PERKINS: This letter is in regard to recent Economic Opportunity Act Amendments of 1967, H.R. 8311 and S. 1545, with some positive information on how effective one of these programs is functioning here—the Gastineau Area Community Action Program. In the past year the League of Women Voters of the Greater Juneau Borough has been studying a number of local programs initiated by the Office of Economic Opportunity and other agencies.