

Dr. ALPER. Thank you.

The Medical Society of the District of Columbia feels that no new legislation is necessary to regulate optometry in the District of Columbia. If the Congress, however, sees fit to change existing legislation, we respectfully request that due consideration be given to suggested changes substantially similar to those suggested by the Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia by letter to the Chairman of the Committee on the District of Columbia dated May 18, 1967, the Guild of Prescription Opticians, the Bar Association of the District of Columbia, concerning H.R. 1283, 595 and 732—I realize, Mr. Chairman, some of these have been changed already but we are going to submit, if this is all right with you, our proposed or suggested amendments to H.R. 1283.

Mr. SISK. If I may interrupt you, Doctor, would you state for the committee whether or not those proposed changes are identical or are they substantially different from what you presented to the committee last year?

Dr. ALPER. It is substantially different from that of last year and differs from the changes incorporated in H.R. 12276.

Mr. SISK. The committee will want that to be made part of the committee files, since your proposed amendments are included in your prepared statement already included in the record.

Dr. ALPER. It is our intent that these changes will be in the public interest in the field of eye care so that the visual needs in the District of Columbia can proceed in this public interest.

Mr. Chairman, the Medical Society expresses its thanks to this committee for according it the opportunity to present its views concerning this proposed legislation and I would like to introduce Dr. Robert Kling, the Program Director of the Georgetown University, for his statement, sir.

Dr. KLING. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I have the honor to represent and to present a statement which is the combined statement of Dr. Albert Hardin, Dean of the College of Medicine at Howard University; Dr. John Rose, Dean of the School of Medicine at Georgetown University; Dr. John Parks, Dean of the School of Medicine at George Washington University; Dr. Claude Cowan, Chief of the Department of Ophthalmology at Howard University; Dr. James O'Rourke, Chief of the Department of Ophthalmology, Georgetown University, and Dr. John McTigue, Chief of the Department of Ophthalmology at George Washington University.

Mr. SISK. The complete statement will be included in the record at this point.

(The proposed statement follows:)

AUGUST 15, 1967.

Re H.R. 1283 and H.R. 12276.
SUBCOMMITTEE No. 5,
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
Washington, D.C.

JOINT STATEMENT

Mr. CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE: This bill has many fine features, and the zeal of the optometrists to police their act is to be commended. However, this endeavor has led to the seeking through legislation a status which is only possible through education. Being engaged in the training of ophthalmologists we are concerned when it is proposed to grant the same rights and privileges to **any** group with less training. We feel the health and welfare of the public is at stake. To become an ophthalmologist requires a college degree, four years in medical