

Let us therefore prohibit discrimination in employment now and give persons of all ages a chance to be considered for jobs on their merit and ability, alone, by passing my bill, H.R. 9586.

Thank you.

Mr. DENT. Thank you very kindly, Congressman Eilberg. Very frankly your presentation only adds to the great amount of material that we are accumulating that shows this to be a very acute and severe problem. We are talking about 45 to 65 years of age. But from the testimony we are receiving perhaps we should start talking about 40 years of age, and in some cases much younger.

It appears you put your finger on one of the most serious aspects of the problem; that is, the doors are shut, the doors are absolutely closed.

In some instances no matter what your experience has been, what your abilities may be, what your ambitions or capabilities of performing the job are, you are denied any consideration, strictly on the basis of age.

I know you have been concerned about this problem.

I know of your activities in the State legislature along this line. Those of us who have kept track of Pennsylvania's fight in this area know that they have a commission on aging, they have a department that functions and you are one of the prime movers in that department.

Thank you.

Mr. Pucinski.

Mr. PUCINSKI. I would like to join the chairman in congratulating Mr. Eilberg for his fine statement here that reflects his deep understanding of this problem.

I am sure the problem is prevalent in his district as well as many other districts in the country. It brings comfort to the committee to have our colleagues take time to bring their comments before the committee.

I am sure your district should be proud of the fact that they have a Representative that would take the trouble to do research and come before the committee. This is where the problem begins; it is important for members to be vigilant and your contribution this morning is very important.

Mr. DENT. Thank you, sir. I know you, like other Members, have very important duties this morning.

Our next witness this morning is Mr. William D. Bechill, Commissioner on Aging. We are happy to have you here because this is where the Commission you head was created. After many years of trial and tribulation on the part of John Fogarty this committee was given the opportunity to authorize the creation of the Commission on Aging.

We know you are doing a very good job and want to compliment you on the efforts you and your staff are making toward solving this serious problem.

You may proceed in any fashion you wish.

STATEMENT OF WILLIAM D. BECHILL, COMMISSIONER ON AGING

Mr. BECHILL. Thank you for those very fine comments, Mr. Chairman.

I welcome this opportunity to appear before the committee to support the provisions of H.R. 4421 and H.R. 3651. The problem which