

support of research for new treatment and cures and training relating to blinding eye diseases and visual disorders, including research and training in the special health problems and requirements of the blind and in the basic and clinical sciences relating to the mechanism of the visual function and preservation of sight. The Surgeon General is also authorized to plan for research and training, especially against the main causes of blindness and loss of visual function.

ESTABLISHMENT OF ADVISORY COUNCIL

"SEC. 452. (a) The Surgeon General is authorized, with the approval of the Secretary, to establish an advisory council to advise, consult with, and make recommendations to the Surgeon General on matters relating to the activities of the National Eye Institute.

"(b) The provisions relating to the composition, terms of office of members, and reappointment of members of advisory councils under section 432(a) shall be applicable to the council established under this section, except that the Surgeon General, with approval of the Secretary, may include on such council established under this section such additional ex officio members as he deems necessary.

"(c) Upon appointment of such council, it shall assume all or such part as the Surgeon General may, with the approval of the Secretary, specify of the duties, functions, and powers of the National Advisory Health Council relating to the research or training projects with which such council established under this part is concerned and such portion as the Surgeon General may specify (with such approval) of the duties, functions, and powers of any other advisory council established under this Act relating to such projects.

"FUNCTIONS

"SEC. 453. The Surgeon General shall, through the National Eye Institute established under this part, carry out the purposes of section 301 with respect to the conduct and support of research with respect to blinding eye diseases and visual disorders associated with general health and well-being, including the special health problems and requirements of the blind and the mechanism of sight and visual function, except that the Surgeon General shall, with the approval of the Secretary, determine the areas in which and the extent to which he will carry out such purposes of section 301 through such Institute or an institute established by or under other provisions of this Act, or both of them, when both such institutes have functions with respect to the same subject matter. The Surgeon General is also authorized to provide training and instruction and establish and maintain traineeships and fellowships, in the National Eye Institute and elsewhere in matters relating to diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of blinding eye diseases and visual disorders with such stipends and allowances (including travel and subsistence expenses) for trainees and fellows as he deems necessary, and, in addition, provide for such training, instruction, and traineeships and for such fellowships through grants to public or other nonprofit institutions."

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT,
BUREAU OF THE BUDGET,
Washington, D.C., November 2, 1967.

HON. HARLEY O. STAGGERS,

Chairman, Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This letter is in response to your request of March 10, 1967, for a report on H.R. 586, and your request of September 14, 1967, for a report on H.R. 12843, bills "To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the establishment of a National Eye Institute in the National Institutes of Health."

The Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, in its report to your Committee on these bills, pointed to several reasons for recommending against enactment of this legislation. The Bureau of the Budget concurs in those views.

Sincerely yours,

WILFRED H. ROMMEL,
Assistant Director for Legislative Reference.