

The District believes that Congress showed great wisdom when it created the Federal City College and the Washington Technical Institute to serve the students and citizens of the District of Columbia. We know from what we have already seen that the College and the Institute will contribute substantially to the progress and development in our Nation's capital.

The Government of the District of Columbia favors H.R. 15280 and S. 1999 without reservation. We believe the citizens of the District of Columbia should be entitled to the benefits of the land grant college. I have been informed that the District of Columbia is the last remaining area in the United States, including Puerto Rico that is not covered by programs that come with land grant college status, the Morrill Act, the Bankhead-Jones Act, the Smith-Lever Act and the Agricultural Marketing Act. Land grant college authorization will allow the Federal City College to expand its curriculum and reach out to service more families in the District. We see the College administering family-centered extension service programs in the District, particularly to the hard-to-reach poor.

There are about 96,000 youngsters between the ages of 9 and 19 in 49,000 families in D.C. who live in circumstances approaching abject poverty. This legislation would provide urgently needed supplemental assistance to youngsters, through well known and proven programs of the 4-H, and to their families who are hopelessly caught up in impoverished circumstances by informational, educational and vocational inadequacies.

The family unit is considered to be the most important instrument in the process of developing the individual. Through this primary group the individual may acquire habits, ideals, attitudes, images and examples, which both stimulate and motivate him toward being a responsible citizen.

However, many families in congested areas of Washington have been unable to provide for their children the kind of home life which fosters good health and good citizenship. Often this is beyond their control and even beyond their understanding. Parents from many low-income groups are not familiar with adequate nutrition, good housekeeping standards, the care and development of children, and the need to foster sound values within the home. They presently lack skills in maintaining their homes, furnishings, and equipment. This legislation would authorize the Federal City College to establish an extension program in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture to assist families to provide better way of life for themselves and for others.

Land grant college status will permit the Federal City College, co-operating with the Washington Technical Institute, to offer at least on the two-year level, instruction in such fields as horticulture, forestry, conservation and beautification, to mention a few, that would not be offered otherwise. We believe a young man desiring to become a forest ranger or soil conservationist should not be denied this opportunity because he happened to be born in an area not having a land grant institution. It has been difficult, and in recent years, impossible for a student in the District of Columbia to enroll in an institution of higher learning in other States due mostly to the crowded conditions at these colleges. Under land grant college status, not only