

modifications of some sort to permit the disabled veteran to operate his vehicle. There are some veterans whose disabilities are not so severe as to establish entitlement for automobiles, but who require driver control devices. The Commission recommends that these veterans initially be furnished these devices as prosthetic appliances.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 51

The Commission recommends that the Veterans Administration be authorized to furnish nursing home care in Alaska and Hawaii by transfer of patients from any hospital in which care has been furnished by the Veterans Administration.

Background to Recommendation:

There are no veterans hospitals in Alaska and Hawaii. Veterans suffering from nonservice-connected diseases and disabilities cannot be hospitalized in private hospitals at government expense. The Veterans Administration does, however, hospitalize nonservice-connected veterans in other government hospitals where we have specific contracts. Under present law this does not provide eligibility for community nursing home care. The Commission recommends that the Veterans Administration be authorized to furnish nursing home care in Alaska and Hawaii by transfer of patients from any hospital in which care has been furnished by the Veterans Administration.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 52

The Commission recommends expansion of the Veterans Administration medical research program.

Background to Recommendation:

The Commission underscores the fact that the primary mission of the VA medical program is the provision of the highest quality of medical care to its veteran patients. We deeply appreciate the essential contribution that medical research makes to the maintenance of a high-quality level of patient care.