

RECOMMENDATION NO. 57

The Commission recommends that authorization for construction grants for state nursing homes be extended for five years beyond the June 30, 1969 expiration date.

Background to Recommendation:

The program of Federal participation in the construction of state home facilities for furnishing nursing home care was originally prescribed by Public Law 88-450 in August 1964. The law authorized \$5,000,000 per year for five years (FY 1965-1969) for up to 50 percent of costs of construction, renovation, and initial equipment.

No appropriation was made for FY 1965 because time was needed for the VA to develop regulations and procedures, and for the states to develop their plans and submit applications. In FY 1966, \$2-1/2 million was appropriated; \$4 million was appropriated for FY 1967; and \$4 million has been requested for FY 1968.

To date, fifteen project applications have been received. Thirteen have been approved, and two are under review. As funds become available, commitment is made to applicant states in the order in which their completed applications are received. FY 1968 funds will be exhausted by approved applications. Part of the FY 1969 funds are also expected to be applied to projects already tentatively approved. Projects approved and under review will provide 1,632 beds for nursing home care in state homes. Total project costs exceed \$26 million, and VA participation will be approximately \$11 million. States have already indicated an interest in providing 1,600 additional beds. Some states are now in the process of developing plans for submitting applications.

Because of the success of this program in helping to meet the need for nursing home care facilities, the Commission recommends that authorization for construction grants for state nursing homes be extended for five years beyond the June 30, 1969 expiration date.