

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE,
Washington, D.C., March 21, 1968.

HON. HARLEY O. STAGGERS,
Chairman, Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce,
House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This letter is in response to your request of December 19, 1967, for a report on H.J. Res. 958, a bill "To authorize the Secretary of Transportation to conduct a comprehensive study and investigation of the existing compensation system for motor vehicle accident losses, and for other purposes."

The joint resolution would authorize the Secretary of Transportation, in cooperation with other Federal agencies, to conduct a comprehensive study and investigation of all relevant aspects of the existing motor vehicle accident compensation system. Such study and investigation would include (1) the inadequacies of existing compensation system in theory and practice; (2) the public policy objectives to be realized by such system, including an analysis of the costs and benefits, both monetary and otherwise; and (3) the most effective means for realizing such objectives.

The Secretary would be required to submit to the Congress interim reports and a final report not later than eighteen months after the date of enactment of this legislation. The final report would contain a detailed statement of the findings and conclusions of the Secretary, together with his recommendations for legislation and other action the Secretary deems necessary to carry out the objectives of this joint resolution.

The joint resolution would also provide that the President shall appoint an Interagency Advisory Committee on Compensation for Motor Vehicle Accident Losses consisting of the Secretary who shall be Chairman and one representative each of the Departments of Commerce, Justice, Labor, Health, Education, and Welfare, and Housing and Urban Development, the Federal Trade Commission, the Interstate Commerce Commission, and the Securities and Exchange Commission, and other Federal agencies as are designated by the President. The Advisory Committee would advise the Secretary on the preparation for and the conduct of the study authorized by this joint resolution.

Other provisions in the joint resolution would authorize the Secretary to obtain assistance in carrying out his functions from private organizations and from other governmental agencies.

This Department is in accord with the purposes of this legislation and would have no objection to its enactment. Since the primary responsibility for conducting the proposed study would be vested in the Secretary of the Department of Transportation, we would defer to the views of that Department as to the adequacy of the administrative and appropriation provisions of the resolution.

We are advised by the Bureau of the Budget that there is no objection to the presentation of this report from the standpoint of the Administration's program.

Sincerely,

WILBUR J. COHEN, *Acting Secretary.*

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL,
Washington, D.C., March 18, 1968.

HON. HARLEY O. STAGGERS,
Chairman, Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce,
House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is in response to a request for views concerning H.J. Res. 958, to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to conduct a comprehensive study of the compensation system for motor vehicle accident losses.

Based on a Congressional finding to the effect that the existing system of compensation for loss and suffering due to motor vehicle accidents is inequitable and inadequate, the resolution would authorize the Secretary, in cooperation with the heads of other relevant federal agencies, to conduct a study of all aspects of the existing motor vehicle accident compensation system. For the purpose of the study the Secretary would be authorized to hold hearings and would be required to submit to the Congress a report containing his findings and his recommendations for legislation. Under the resolution the President would be directed to appoint an Interagency Advisory Committee on Compensation for