

On behalf of my colleagues and our member institutions, I wish to thank the committee and its chairman and its assistant chairman for the privilege of testifying on H.R. 15067, the Higher Education Amendments of 1968, especially title I of the amendments.

Title I is of special concern to universities and colleges with higher continuing education programs because of their already existing involvement in community service programs, both urban and rural. More than four-fifths of our member institutions have participated in planning State programs and carrying out local projects, or are now participating in them.

These institutions also share a concern with institutions of higher education which have not previously been involved in community service programs. Since 1966 the members of our association have been attempting to get private financing to provide technical assistance to small and newly emerging private and public community institutions of higher education for organizing extension and continuing education arms within their institutions.

Some, such as Syracuse University, have operated title I programs for training community service staff people for schools with small or nonexistent continuing education programs. We believe that, if title I and other community service programs are to succeed, the know-how of experienced institutions will have to be extended to those community institutions which have an interest in relating to the needs of their own communities.

On behalf of these institutions we urge in particular three actions with respect to title I: (1) Improve the present late annual funding so that programs will not be foreshortened or forestalled, (2) restore the 75-25 matching formula for funds, and (3) extend the authorization for 5 years through fiscal year 1973.

The record of this subcommittee in seeking to solve the critical late funding problem in Federal educational programs deserves and receives commendation from educational administrators in all the States. Those of us who direct programs of higher continuing education welcome this opportunity to add our voices to the chorus of acclaim. Authorization for forward funding was provided in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act amendments last year. Now we urge the committee to provide the same authorization in funding title I and other relevant sections of the Higher Education Act. Institutions of higher education need to know well in advance of the beginning of the academic year what their staffing and program requirements are when they seek additional staff and faculty and when they must release staff or faculty to other assignments. The Congress has often expressed concern for good management practices in our educational institutions—and properly so—but under the present system we are precluded from this possibility.

If funding of title I remains at 50-50 instead of 75-25 for the current fiscal year, the effectiveness of the program will be greatly reduced. We do not have an exact figure for the number of institutions whose projects for fiscal 1968 have been approved—314 were approved and carried on in fiscal 1967, 78 of them currently still in operation. Of the institutions whose projects have been approved for fiscal 1968, 87 will not be able to accept the grants at 50-50 funding, according to a recent nationwide survey by the Office of Education.