

Therefore, I urge favorable consideration of the proposed amendment to title IV titled "Part E—Cooperative Education Programs" and the amendment broadening the authority given to the Commissioner of Education to enable him to authorize agreements using funds for work-study programs to explore and establish cooperative education programs.

Thank you.

Mr. BRADEMAs. Thank you very much.

Dr. Allen, I hope you can summarize this statement; otherwise, we will not be able to ask you gentlemen any questions.

STATEMENT OF DR. JOHN ALLEN, PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA, ON BEHALF OF NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR COOPERATIVE EDUCATION

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Chairman, I am president of the University of South Florida. This is a State university that is urban, in that we have a million and a half people within commuting distance of our campus.

I welcome this opportunity of expressing my views on cooperative education, and I urge your support of amendments to the Higher Education Act, which would give assistance to furthering the cooperative education movement.

It is my belief we have not fully recognized the opportunities for education offered through the cooperative education programs, a plan whereby students alternate between terms of campus study and terms in paid professional training programs in their area of professional interest. It is an opportunity for blending of theory and practice.

It is a worthy plan of education, even without its monetary value.

The income to the student which is taxable income is not only a fringe benefit but is a means by which many of our students are able to continue their studies at the university, as the Florida west coast is an area where people have modest incomes.

At the University of South Florida, as well as in selected areas of the other universities in Florida's university system, we have found cooperative education extremely useful.

At South Florida, we have found it useful in nearly all disciplines in all colleges—the college of liberal arts, the college of business administration, the college of education, and the college of engineering.

While we currently have more than 300 students in our cooperative education program, more than 3 percent of our full-time-equivalent enrollment, only the need for additional finances prevents us from developing more positions with additional employers increasing the size of this program to at least 10 percent of our enrollment and probably more.

We believe a cooperative education program should not merely place the student in a job but place him in a position in his area of professional interest where he can work with others who serve as his field faculty in his area of study.

This means that very few college and university co-op programs can serve the student's best interest by being only local in nature. Our 300-plus co-op students are assigned training positions with business, industrial, and governmental employers in 17 States and the District of Columbia.