

Secretary of Labor, Department of Labor,
Washington, D.C.:

In the 88th Congress I had the honor to serve as chairman of the subcommittee which led to the enactment of Public Law 88-450, the so-called nursing home care law, and have been constantly concerned with the implementation and utilization of this law from its effective date to the present. The community nursing home program has been particularly vital to the Veterans' Administration medical program, and I want to join with other Members of Congress in protesting the unwarranted ruling of the wage and hour and public contracts division of your department in applying Public Law 89-286 to the community nursing home contracts administered by the Veterans' Administration. This

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The fact that the contract itself provides for readmission to a hospital when more than minimal medical care is required makes it clear that the Veterans Administration is not here contracting primarily for professional medical services of the type found exempt under the Service Contract Act. The Veterans Administration appears to be contracting primarily for convalescent care services which are furnished through the use of service employees. While there may be a degree of similarity between professional medical care furnished in hos-

Should the Veterans Administration decide to pursue this request, there would be a public hearing on the request with full opportunity for all interested parties to appear. A decision then would be made based on the record of the hearing.

Sincerely,

W. WILLARD WIRTZ,
Secretary of Labor.

Mr. EVERETT. We have a very distinguished colleague with us, Congressman Pickle from Austin, Tex. Congressman Pickle, will you go right ahead?

STATEMENT OF HON. J. J. PICKLE, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF TEXAS

Mr. PICKLE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to express my appreciation to you and to the members of the committee for the privilege of being here with you this morning, and I would like permission to revise and extend my remarks.

Mr. EVERETT. Without objection it is so ordered.