

REGIONAL MEDICAL PROGRAMS; ALCOHOLICS AND NARCOTICS ADDICTS FACILITIES; HEALTH SERVICES FOR DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL MIGRATORY WORKERS

TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 1968

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE,
COMMITTEE ON INTERSTATE AND FOREIGN COMMERCE,
Washington, D.C.

The subcommittee met at 10 a.m., pursuant to notice, in room 2322, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Paul G. Rogers presiding (Hon. John Jarman, chairman).

Mr. KYROS (presiding). The subcommittee will please be in order.

The hearings today are on H.R. 15758, introduced by Chairman Staggers at the request of the administration.

This bill would extend and expand the existing authorizations for regional medical programs, would extend the program of health services for domestic agricultural migratory workers, and would provide matching grants for construction and staffing of facilities for prevention of alcoholism addiction and for treatment of alcoholics and narcotic addicts.

REGIONAL MEDICAL PROGRAMS

In 1965, the Congress considered legislation proposing the establishment of regional medical programs designed to improve the health care of the American people in the fields of heart disease, cancer, stroke and related diseases. The Congress made substantial revisions in the proposed program, providing in general for a maximum of decentralization of the decisionmaking process and encouraging the maximum feasible cooperation between public and private groups interested in the health of the American people.

It is impossible to give a simple description of a regional medical program since every program established is different, with each program tailored specifically to the needs of the region served.

Over 90 percent of the population of the United States is or will be covered by regional medical programs established on the local level either on an operational basis today or through programs currently in the planning stage. Eventually, 100 percent of our population will be covered by these programs.

Many fears and reservations were expressed at the time the Congress was considering the initial legislation. It is my understanding, however, that many of the groups which had reservations about the initial proposals have since modified their positions, in large measure