

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
Washington, D.C., March 25, 1968.

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

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is in reply to your letter of March 6, requesting our views on H.R. 15758, a bill "To amend the Public Health Service Act."

This Department favors enactment of that portion of the bill which would provide grants for the health of migratory agricultural workers. We are not commenting on remaining sections of the bill which are more appropriately the interest of other departments.

The bill would extend authorization to continue programs of the Public Health Service Act relating to the health of migratory agricultural workers for an additional two years, through June 30, 1970. The Act provides grants for medical diagnosis and treatment, immunization, and family health, nursing, and sanitation services.

We believe that these programs are in the public interest, and we are particularly concerned that steps already taken to improve the much needed health services for migratory agricultural workers and their families should be included.

The Bureau of the Budget advises that the enactment of this proposed legislation would be in accord with the President's program.

Sincerely yours,

ORVILLE L. FREEMAN, *Secretary.*

THE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE TREASURY,
Washington, D.C., March 26, 1968.

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

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Reference is made to your request for the views of this Department on H.R. 15758, "To amend the Public Health Service Act so as to extend and improve the provisions relating to regional medical programs, to extend the authorization of grants for health of migratory agricultural workers, to provide for specialized facilities for alcoholics and narcotic addicts, and for other purposes."

Only Title III of the bill is of concern to the Treasury Department. Title III would amend the Community Mental Health Centers Act to authorize grants to public or nonprofit private agencies or organizations for: (1) the construction, operation, staffing and maintenance of facilities for the prevention and treatment of alcoholism and of specialized residential and other facilities for the treatment of homeless alcoholics requiring care in such facilities; and (2) the construction, operation, staffing and maintenance of treatment centers and facilities for narcotic addicts within the States, and for the development of specialized training programs or materials relating to the provision of public health services for the prevention and treatment of narcotic addiction, and for the evaluation of such programs.

The President, in his message on the Challenge of Crime to our Society, urged enactment of legislation which would provide federal leadership and assistance to States and localities in developing non-jail alternatives for the handling of alcoholics and asked the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare to increase the activities of his Department in the area of rehabilitation of drug addicts, and in alerting young people to the threat addiction poses to their lives. Title III of H.R. 15758 would carry out these recommendations of the President.

The Department recommends enactment of Title III of H.R. 15758.

The Department has been advised by the Bureau of the Budget that there is no objection to the submission of this report to your Committee and that enactment of the proposed legislation would be in accord with the program of the President.

Sincerely yours,

FRED B. SMITH, *General Counsel.*