

quired. Hospitals in the region have already expressed their intent to have nurses participate in this program as soon as it is activated. The objectives of this program go beyond that of supplying specially trained nurses for coronary care units in general hospitals; every effort will be made to train coronary care unit nurses from the smaller community hospitals as well, even though they may not as yet have such a unit.

Three additional activities will also be pursued under this initial operational program. A regional laboratory will be established for education and training of medical personnel in the care of patients with thrombotic and hemorrhagic disorders. This is the first such facility in the region and will be based in one of the general hospitals participating in the Rochester Regional Medical Program. A region-wide registry of patients with myocardial infarction will be implemented which will gather uniform information from the coronary care units of participating hospitals and provide immediate as well as longitudinal data for analysis. A relatively small amount of funds has been made available to the region to develop the first learning center in the region where some of the educational programs in heart disease, cancer, and stroke may be presented to physicians and nurses.

The first year award for this multifaceted program in cardiology is \$343,749. Having described an example of what we are building, Mr. Chairman, I should like finally to say a word or two about the level of funding I believe essential if Regional Medical Programs are to have a fair chance to achieve their goal.

We all realize that the maintenance of health is assuming an increasingly important role in our socio-economic area of concern and activities. The health industry today accounts for an expenditure of \$50 billion but it is scheduled soon to increase to an expenditure of \$75 billion.

If the Regional Medical Program is to fulfill its function as the interface between the moving parts of this health care mechanism, it must continue to be able to influence that increasingly expensive device.

We would be short-sighted engineers, indeed, to derive authorization ceilings for the next five years of this program by looking backward at the cost of these programs at the time they were being planned. The cautious development of those programs has unleashed a chain reaction of operational activity which will necessitate substantially increased funding levels. It is already clear that on the average these programs will be operating at a level of between \$5 million and \$10 million each within the next five years. It is, therefore, necessary that an authorization level of roughly \$500 million be used as the yardstick with which one measures the funding levels of the program contemplated by this extension.

Mr. Chairman, I am indeed privileged to again have the opportunity to present my views to the committee which has done so much to shape health legislation in general and the Regional Medical Programs in particular.

Mr. ROGERS. Our next witness is Sidney Farber, director of research, Children's Cancer Research Foundation, Boston, Mass.

Dr. Farber is also an old friend of the committee, and he was helpful in the formulation of the original legislation, having served as chairman of the Cancer Panel of the President's Commission.

Welcome back, Dr. Farber.

STATEMENT OF DR. SIDNEY FARBER, DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH, CHILDREN'S CANCER RESEARCH FOUNDATION, BOSTON, MASS.

Dr. FARBER. Thank you. It is a great honor to be once more before this committee, where my memories are as heartwarming as any memories I have in my entire professional career. I join Dr. DeBakey and all our colleagues in expressing gratitude to this committee and Congress for starting what I regard as the most important program in the field of medicine in the history of our country that is applied directly to the care of the patient.

I speak strongly in favor of H.R. 15758, the purpose of which is, among other things, to amend the Public Health Service Act so as