

The American College of Cardiology enthusiastically endorses the objectives and philosophy of the regional medical program because they embrace an unchallenged need and seek to use forces which require only release and coordination. We support the planning and operation of every regional program where we possess manpower and resources.

The college is certain the program will elevate the health of the Nation. It pleads for a favorable action on bill H.R. 15758. This amendment to the Public Health Service Act extends and expands the medical regional program to a new and amplified potential and hopefully to the status of the most distinguished medical program conceived in our time.

I am grateful for the opportunity of expressing these views.

Mr. ROGERS. Thank you very much, Doctor. We appreciate your testimony.

Did your associate have any statement?

Mr. NELLIGAN. No, sir.

Mr. ROGERS. Doctor Carter.

Mr. CARTER. No questions.

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Skubitz?

Mr. SKUBITZ. No questions.

Mr. ROGERS. I might say that the committee, in adopting a 3-year program rather than a 5- or 10-year program, feels that this is one way for this committee to carry out its responsibilities to the Congress and the American people, because otherwise we have no review of the program.

Dr. LIKOFF. I understand that philosophy, Mr. Chairman, but I do wish to tell the committee, and particularly Mr. Skubitz, that we in the field have found it difficult to construct long-range, vital organizational programs and planning in view of the uncertainty from time to time of the funding required to support these ventures.

Something we plan for a decade ahead cannot be accomplished on 2-year appropriations. How you get Government workers under these conditions, I don't know. We are having difficulty.

Mr. ROGERS. I am sure it would be desirable to set programs for as much time as we wanted with as much money as was wanted, but we have to equate the economy of the Nation. But this is the committee's function, and that is what we will do.

We are grateful for your testimony in support of this legislation. It will be helpful to us in our consideration.

Our next witness is Dr. Clark Millikan, of the Mayo Clinic, who will appear and give testimony for the American Heart Association, Inc.

Dr. Millikan, we are delighted to have you here, and will be pleased to have your testimony.

If you would like to put your statement in the record and just sum up for us, it would be acceptable, or if you prefer, read it.

STATEMENT OF DR. CLARK MILLIKAN, CHAIRMAN, COUNCIL ON CEREBROVASCULAR DISEASE, AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION

Dr. MILLIKAN. Mr. Rogers and members of the subcommittee, it is not only an honor, but a responsibility, to take part in the construc-