

alcoholism related project applications for assistance are receiving almost no consideration by many of these agencies and they enjoy only a very low priority in a majority of the others. Evidence of this is seen by the fact that a total of only 11.2 million dollars was spent by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare during the current fiscal year, despite the fact that the former HEW Secretary has called alcoholism the most neglected health problem facing the nation. For the same fiscal year the amount of appropriations to the activity of the National Cancer Institute was \$183,356,000. Added to this figure were millions of dollars appropriated to the Cancer Control Branch, PHS, the Veterans' Administration and the Atomic Energy Commission. There are currently approximately one million citizens under medical care for cancer with an expected additional half million new cases for the coming year. Alcoholism with an estimated 5 million victims—3 times the incidence of cancer—is currently receiving less than five percent of the federal attention which cancer receives. Similar statistics can be given for heart disease, vocational rehabilitation and mental retardation. These are all worthwhile endeavors for which more federal activity is indicated. But alcoholism should be accorded far greater recognition than it currently receives. We would, therefore, strongly urge the Congress to reassert in HR-15758 its intent that existing social, health, welfare and rehabilitation Acts must and shall be utilized to aid in programs of alcoholism care and control where applicable.

TRAINING PROGRAMS

Training of professional personnel to staff alcoholism treatment facilities is a special and crucial need in the field. Because of the historically low governmental agency priority for alcoholism projects, only the most highly dedicated and motivated people have been able to withstand the frustrations heaped on the professional worker in this field. Consequently, a very limited number of professionally qualified personnel are now devoting time and energy to the problems of alcoholism. This, coupled with the now acute problems posed by the court decisions, makes mandatory the training of large numbers of professional workers in the field.

Suggested Preamble:

The above points, we respectfully submit, could be covered in a preamble to Title III, Part A, of HR-15758 such as follows:

The Congress hereby finds that—

(a) Alcoholism is a major health and social problem afflicting a significant proportion of the public, and is not receiving the attention required from federal, state and local governments.

(b) Alcoholism treatment and control programs should: 1) be community based whenever possible, 2) provide a comprehensive range of services, including emergency treatment under proper medical auspices on a coordinated basis in existing and new facilities, and 3) be integrated with and involve the active participation of a wide range of public and non-governmental agencies.

(c) The handling of chronic alcoholics within the system of criminal justice perpetuates and aggravates the problem. A public health approach permits early detection and prevention of alcoholism and effective treatment and rehabilitation, relieves police and other law enforcement agencies of an inappropriate burden that impedes their important work, and better serves the interests of the public.

The Congress further declares that—

(a) Major federal action and federal assistance to state, regional and local programs are required 1) to conduct and foster research relating to the cause, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of alcoholism, 2) to develop and demonstrate new methods and techniques for the prevention of alcoholism and the treatment and rehabilitation of alcoholics, 3) to improve and coordinate services for the prevention of alcoholism and the treatment and rehabilitation of alcoholics, 4) to support programs for the training of persons to carry out the purpose of this Act, and 5) to promote full and equal access to humane care, effective treatment, and eventual rehabilitation for all alcoholics regardless of their circumstances.

(b) In addition to the funds provided for under this Act, other federal legislation providing for federal or federally-assisted state research, prevention, treatment or rehabilitation programs in the fields of health and disease