

As you know, our migratory workers today may have a community in which he lives, but on the whole he is moving for long periods of time away from that area.

The alcoholism provisions in H.R. 15758 would authorize a 2-year grant program of building, staffing, and operating facilities for treating alcoholism, using the same types of mechanisms as provided in the Mental Health Centers Act. The local centers it will provide will aid the alcoholic, replacing the neglect and abuse which in the past resulted all too often in his eventual destruction.

It will also aid the less than 10 percent of alcoholics who are the homeless men and women, hopefully putting an end to the revolving door cycle of arrest, jail, release, drunkenness, and arrest again.

The narcotic addict rehabilitation provisions extend and make the very logical placement of narcotic addict rehabilitation activities in the mental health centers authorized under the community mental health centers programs. To enable the centers to absorb their new responsibility, the new legislation, would authorize a 2-year grant program for construction, staffing, and operation and maintenance of new facilities and for training of the necessary personnel.

Drug addiction as a symptom of mental illness has been recognized in the act. As with the alcoholic the drug addict is a hazard to his family and his community as well as to himself.

Now, while the number of centers provided for treatment of addicts is small, the number of addicts is increasing. By providing this as part of the complex of mental health centers, it gets treatment to persons who need it in places where they can get it, and allows for efficient use of existing facilities.

Psychological dependence, if not addiction, is a problem for young people today, and I would add that there are other dangerous drugs in addition to narcotics, as this committee knows, which have become a problem in recent times.

We would hope that this program will be extended to them as well as to the narcotic drug addicts. We hope this committee will report favorably this program. We believe this legislation will stand as a model which the States may use in developing and modifying their own legislation, and certainly treatment of drug addicts and alcoholics and organization of medical service.

It includes incentives and assistance from which each State can benefit in assuring that the medical fields of its citizens are met.

Most certainly the Federal influence in the advance of medical knowledge and the application of that advance for the benefit of all citizens should continue.

In the past much of this influence took the form only of financial assistance to various State programs. Today this influence also assumes the form of acting as a clearinghouse, and as techniques are developed and tested by those closest to the problems.

We trust that approval of H.R. 15758 by this committee will indicate a continued willingness to maintain Federal support of health programs to the highest degree possible. And we urge your favorable consideration of the bill before you.

Mr. Chairman, we thank you kindly for the opportunity to appear in support of these various programs.

(Mr. Fair's prepared statment follows:)