

expeditious way to achieve this goal. Interest in improving programs for chronic respiratory disease patients exist in many areas and it is our belief that this interest will generate development of such programs.

TB-RD associations will help stimulate interest in such programs, utilizing their background of experience in promoting better patient services. In the past, many associations have supported medical education in pulmonary disease, and have demonstrated the need for screening surveys and diagnostic and treatment services.

TB-RD associations were influential forces in communities for many years in promoting more adequate services for tuberculosis patients. In the same way, associations have been in a position to witness the dearth of help for emphysema and chronic bronchitis patients today and because of this, they will be good community partners to the RMP in seeing that the urgent needs of respiratory disease patients are met.

The American Thoracic Society, the medical section of the National Tuberculosis and Respiratory Disease Association, has provided leadership in medical standards and research in tuberculosis and other respiratory diseases. Staff of our organization will continue to work closely with the Division of Regional Medical Programs to promote high standards of diagnosis and care for chronic respiratory disease.

The NTRDA is pleased with the proposal in H.R. 15758 to expand the number of Advisory Council members from twelve to sixteen. At the time Congress specified that attention be paid in Regional Medical Programs to chronic respiratory disease, it also requested that one of the members of the National Advisory Council have competence in this particular medical field. Expansion of Council membership will provide more scope for ensuring representation of the various areas of medicine which are of necessity involved in the many activities of Regional Medical Programs.

We question if evaluation of Programs, as provided in Section 102 of the bill, should be performed solely by the Secretary. It would seem more satisfactory for both the Department of HEW and the public, to require that such evaluation be done by outside groups.

We are certainly in support of extension of grants for health services for migratory workers and our only reservation is that these seem very minimal amounts considering the high rate of disease in this segment of our population. Tuberculosis rates are high in these people because of their low economic status and because their living conditions favor spread of the disease.

We support provision of funds for construction of special facilities for inpatient and outpatient treatment of alcoholism. Alcoholics have a high rate of tuberculosis, and extensive difficulties have arisen in recent years in hospitalizing many of these persons in community hospitals, including tuberculosis hospitals. Some of these difficulties would seem to be obviated by the provisions suggested. However, recognition of the high rate of tuberculosis in alcoholics is essential in planning adequately for treatment facilities.

It gives us great pleasure to record our support for extension of Regional Medical Programs.

Sincerely yours,

JAMES E. PERKINS, M.D.,
Managing Director.

AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION,
Washington, D.C., March 27, 1968.

HON. JOHN JARMAN,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Public Health and Welfare, Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. JARMAN: Pursuant to the announcement of March 18, 1968, the American Dental Association wishes to submit its views on H.R. 15758, the Health Services Act of 1968. The Association's brief comments will be limited to those provisions of the bill which would extend and improve the Heart Disease, Cancer and Stroke Amendments of 1965 and the Migrant Health Act of 1962, as amended.

As part of its commitment to improving the total health of our people, the American Dental Association is sympathetic to the goals of H.R. 15758.

The dental profession has particular and long-standing concern with respect to oral cancer and some forms of heart disease. Additional research into the pre-