

available for District projects and which would increase the percentage of the Federal share for such projects.

Section 3(d) of the bill requires review of application for grants by a body found by the Secretary to be a responsible metropolitan areawide planning body. There is presently in existence and operation in this area the Metropolitan Washington Health Facilities Planning Council, an areawide planning body sponsored by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. The Commissioners are informed that if there were no such body in existence, the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare would consider the requirement of section 3(d) inoperative. The Commissioners consider it advisable, however, that the legislative history of the bill reflect this position of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, so that there will be no problem arising at a later date. With this understanding, the Commissioners strongly urge the enactment of this bill in its present form.

The Commissioners have been advised by the Bureau of the Budget that, from the standpoint of the Administration's program, there is no objection to the submission of this proposed legislation to the Congress.

Sincerely yours,

WALTER N. TOBRINER,
President, Board of Commissioners, District of Columbia.

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
EXECUTIVE OFFICE,
Washington, D.C., May 31, 1968.

HON. JOHN L. McMILLAN,
*Chairman, Committee on the District of Columbia,
United States House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MR. McMILLAN: The Government of the District of Columbia has for report H.R. 6526 and S. 1228, similar bills, "To authorize project grants for construction and modernization of hospitals and other medical facilities in the District of Columbia."

H.R. 6526 is identical to draft legislation submitted to the Speaker of the House of Representatives by the President of the former Board of Commissioners by letter dated February 15, 1967, a copy of which is attached to this report. For the reasons stated in that letter, the Government of the District of Columbia endorses the enactment of legislation of this nature for the construction and improvement of medical facilities in the District of Columbia.

S. 1228, as introduced, was identical to H.R. 6526. It was, however, prior to its passage by the Senate on December 15, 1967, amended to make necessary changes in dates used in the bill, to include references to extended care facilities for clarification purposes, and to establish a \$36,227,000 authorization maximum for the amount of supplementary Federal grants. (Senate Report No. 944, December 14, 1967)

The Government of the District of Columbia concurs in the amendments made in S. 1228 by the Senate, and recommends that S. 1228 be enacted in lieu of H.R. 6526. If, however, similar amendments were made in the latter bill, the District would also favor its enactment.

The Government of the District of Columbia has been advised by the Bureau of the Budget that, from the standpoint of the Administration's program, there is no objection to the submission of this report to the Congress.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Thomas W. Fletcher
THOMAS W. FLETCHER,
Assistant to the Commissioner.
(For Walter E. Washington, Commissioner).

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND OF THE LEGISLATION

Mr. SISK. It is my understanding that the purpose of these bills is to authorize Federal project grants for the construction and moderniza-