

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL,
Washington, D.C., June 12, 1968.

Re S. 1228—A bill to authorize project grants for construction and modernization of hospitals and other medical facilities in the District of Columbia.

Hon. JOHN L. McMILLAN,
Chairman, Committee on the District of Columbia,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Public Health Advisory Council consists of a group of 21 members, residents of the District of Columbia who advise the Director of Public Health in matters pertaining to health and medical care. This Council is very actively engaged in considering matters relating to the evolution of a comprehensive health and medical care program for the District of Columbia, particularly under the provisions of P.L. 89-97 and P.L. 89-749.

In the process of these recent deliberations this Council has discerned an alarming gap in the continuum of services requisite to the operation of a medical care program that will be capable of providing an acceptable quality of care at the level needed by each person who is cared for in the District of Columbia.

This gap is the result of a deficiency in the number of acceptable long-term care and skilled nursing home beds in the District of Columbia. Estimates of additional need in the District for such beds, which were made prior to the enactment of P.L. 89-97 (Medicare-Medicaid), showed the need for construction of 600 additional extended care beds. The extent to which the need for utilization of this type of facility will be increased as a result of the forthcoming implementation of the District's Medicaid Program under P.L. 89-97 is not yet known, but there is no doubt that this increased need will be substantial.

As a result of the insufficient number of extended care beds, much more costly short-term hospital beds are occupied by patients who could be moved to extended care beds if they were available. The adverse conditions resulting from this excessive utilization are further compounded by the need by 1970 for the modernization of existing short-term hospital beds.

Only by encouraging the construction and modernization of medical facilities can we hope to have available an adequacy of beds to meet the needs of the people of the District of Columbia. It has been many time demonstrated in the past by the enactment of special legislation that the needs of the District of Columbia are over and above those which can be met by the various existing medical facility construction Acts.

For these reasons, the Public Health Advisory Council endorses this proposed bill and urgently recommends that it be approved.

Sincerely yours,

ROBERT S. JASON, M.D.,
Acting Chairman.

(Whereupon, at 12:40 p.m. the hearing adjourned.)

(Subsequently, the following additional documents were filed for the record:)

SUPPLEMENTAL STATEMENT OF HON. JOEL T. BROYHILL, REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF VIRGINIA

JUNE 28, 1968.

To The Honorable B. F. SISK,
Chairman, Subcommittee #5,
Committee on the District of Columbia.

Mr. Chairman, I desire to submit the following additional information on the program for HR 6526. I have organized the text information in the following categories:

- I. Legislative Summary
- II. Justification for Construction and Fund Requirements
 - A. Hospital and Medical Center Facilities Program
 - B. Funds
 1. Grant—\$40,052,000
 2. Loan—\$40,575,000