

The title of the bill generally states its purpose.

The Department of Defense has considered the bill. The need for extending and improving the programs in question is recognized. It is also manifest that such extensions and improvements would indirectly improve the availability of health services for beneficiaries of the Department of Defense. Accordingly, the Department of Defense favors in principle legislation which would accomplish the purpose of H.R. 15757.

The Department of Defense defers, however, to the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare on the details of this legislation.

The Bureau of the Budget advises that the enactment of H.R. 15757 would be in accord with the Program of the President.

Sincerely,

L. NIEDERLEHNER,
Acting General Counsel.

COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, D.C., April 17, 1968.

HON. HARLEY O. STAGGERS,
Chairman, Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The proposed "Health Manpower Act of 1968," H.R. 15757 which has been referred to your Committee proposes a number of amendments to the Public Health Service Act to extend and improve several programs provided for in that act. While we have no comments on the merits of this proposed legislation, we are concerned over the records maintained by recipients of grants under that act and our access thereto for audit and examination purposes.

A number of programs authorized by the Public Health Service Act provide for the making of grants of public funds to individuals, schools, hospitals, public institutions, etc., in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. However, only a few of the recipients of such grants are required by the Public Health Service Act to keep records concerning the disposition of the grant funds and to make them available for audit purposes. Consequently neither the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, nor the General Accounting Office may be able to ascertain that the recipients of those grants have expended them solely for the purposes for which the grants were made.

As indicated above the provisions of law pertaining to several of these grant programs require the recipients of grants to keep records pertaining to those grants and provide that the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare and the Comptroller General or their representatives may examine and audit those records. See section 909 of the Public Health Service Act as added by Public Law 89-239, approved October 6, 1965, 79 Stat. 930, 42 U.S.C. 299i; section 399b(a) of the Public Health Service Act as added by the Medical Library Assistance Act of 1965, approved October 22, 1965, 79 Stat. 1066, 42 U.S.C. 280b-11; and section 796 of the Public Health Service Act as added by the Allied Health Professions Personnel Training Act of 1966, approved November 3, 1966, 80 Stat. 1230, 42 U.S.C. 295h-5. Title III of H.R. 15757 provides for the extension of the grant program authorized by the Allied Health Professions Personnel Training Act of 1966 referred to above.

In view of the large number of programs providing grants for various purposes, the General Accounting Office, in an effort to protect against waste or improper use of grant funds, has recommended to the appropriate Congressional committees that there be inserted in all such legislation similar "access to records" provisions. However, rather than to enact such records requirements with respect to Public Health Service programs on a program by program basis, we recommend that H.R. 15757 be amended to include a records clause that would be applicable to all grant programs covered by the Public Health Service Act.

This could be accomplished by adding a new section 405 to H.R. 15757 which would read as follows:

"SEC. 405. The Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C., ch. 6A) is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new title:

"TITLE X—RECORDS AND AUDIT

"SEC. 1000. (a) Each recipient of a grant under this Act shall keep such records as the Secretary may prescribe, including records which fully disclose the