

and allied health professions personnel. Consequently, any reasonable steps which would enhance the opportunities of the better students to enter medical, dental, and nursing schools, regardless of income, and attract more qualified persons into the health professions are of interest to us.

We make available to our veteran patients the latest technology in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases. New knowledge and techniques are developed through greater emphasis on research. We are interested therefore in any reasonable program which will increase health research facilities.

In his Health Message to the Congress on March 4, 1968, the President recommended legislation to meet the urgent need for more doctors, nurses and other health workers, and for greater emphasis on the development of research facilities meeting critical regional or national needs. We are advised that H.R. 15757 is designed to carry out these recommendations of the President.

We recommend favorable consideration of H.R. 15757 by your Committee.

We are advised by the Bureau of the Budget that there is no objection to the presentation of this report from the standpoint of the Administration's program.

Sincerely,

W. J. DRIVER, *Administrator.*

Mr. JARMAN. Our first witness today is our longtime friend and colleague from Iowa, the Honorable Neal Smith.

We are pleased that you could take the time to be with the subcommittee and give us the benefit of your good counsel.

Mr. ROGERS. May I say, Mr. Chairman, how delighted we are to have our distinguished colleague here.

STATEMENT OF HON. NEAL SMITH, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF IOWA

Mr. SMITH. Thank you. While I was waiting, I saw this nice crowd sitting in the room with no one talking to them, and it was an awful temptation. [Laughter.]

Anyway, Mr. Chairman and Mr. Rogers, I am happy to be here to suggest that the bill you have under consideration provide an alternative method or schedule for repaying loans. I think a rigid repayment schedule has two great shortcomings: (1) Some loan recipients are bound to have years in which they do not make enough money so that they can repay on schedule; and (2) fear that they cannot repay on schedule will cause some applicants who are needed in the health professions to not develop their skills as a nurse or in one of the fields where they are so badly needed.

I am proposing that a loan recipient be permitted, as an alternative, to become obligated to repay the loan at the rate of 5 percent of their net taxable income per year rather than on a fixed or inflexible basis.

The vast majority of nurses have been, and I assume will be, women. Young women hesitate to restrict their married life in advance by signing up for a loan which requires a fixed payment per year. To secure money with this kind of an obligation means that they will be over 30 years of age before the loan is paid off; and, until that time, they have a fixed indebtedness to meet each year.

When they are considering going to nursing school, these girls do not know if they will be married, what the obligations of their husband and family may be, if they will be out of work due to pregnancy or caring for a child, or the family moving. They simply hesitate to introduce such a fixed obligation into such an uncertain future schedule. Understandably, many of them are so afraid it will interfere with what they decide to do in the way of marriage, that they would rather not go to school than run the risk of such interference.