

would otherwise be in the public interest and consistent with the purposes of this program. (Sec. 111(f) of the bill would also provide similar waiver authority under present law for fiscal years 1968 and 1969.)

(c) Experience under the expansion of enrollment requirement of the present law has demonstrated that the purposes of the health professions educational assistance program cannot be fully achieved with a rigid and inflexible enforcement of this requirement. Under present law, the Secretary may waive the expansion of enrollment, in whole or in part, if he determines, after consultation with his Advisory Council, that such an increase cannot be accomplished because of limitation of physical facilities available to the school without lowering the quality of training.

Under present law, a school must have had an approved application for a basic grant to be eligible for a special improvement grant. Therefore, schools which are ineligible for basic improvement grants are also ineligible to receive assistance under the special project authority; thus no Federal assistance is available to them through the improvement grant mechanism.

The expansion of enrollment requirement has presented a serious problem to schools which by merely maintaining or cutting back on enrollments could maintain or improve the quality of education provided for students. The dilemma of the school is particularly great when the financial resources of the school are limited. The school has the choice of further reducing the quality of its educational program by taking in more students in an already weak curriculum or going without the funds and undertaking the curriculum improvement entirely at its own cost. The bill would authorize the Secretary effective in fiscal year 1968, to waive the expansion of enrollment requirement if he determines, after consultation with the Advisory Council, that the waiver is in the public interest and consistent with the purposes of the law. This amendment would make it possible for the Secretary and the Advisory Council to weigh the many complex factors in the individual situations which the schools are confronting and to determine whether it is in the public interest to grant such a waiver and the degree to which Federal assistance would or would not be warranted in terms of the objectives of the act.

New section 772.—Under existing law, special project grants may be made to schools of medicine, dentistry, osteopathy, optometry and podiatry to improve their curricula, to contribute toward the maintenance of or provide for accreditation, or to contribute toward the maintenance of or provide for specialized functions which the school serves. In order to receive a special improvement grant, a school must have had an approved application for a basic improvement grant. There is a statutory ceiling on the amount of grant to any school: \$300,000 for fiscal year 1968 and \$400,000 for fiscal year 1969.

In addition to the schools presently eligible to receive special improvement grants, schools of *pharmacy* and *veterinary medicine* would be eligible for special project grants under the bill.

A school would *not* be required to have an approved application for an institutional (formula) grant in order to be eligible for a special project grant.