

Dr. LEE. The Health Manpower Act of 1968 would extend all but one of the these laws for 4 years (fiscal year 1970 through fiscal year 1973). Since we have had only 1 year of experience under the Allied Health Professions Personnel Training Act, H.R. 15757 would provide for a 1-year extension of that act in order to gain more experience and evaluate the needs for modification or revision.

We believe that 4 years is the minimum period of assured continuation of this fundamental legislative authority if we are to ask schools to undertake major expansion of their teaching capacities or significant modifications of curricula. We therefore strongly urge that the extension of these laws be for the full 4-year period authorized in the bill.

HEALTH PROFESSIONS TRAINING

Construction

The first major amendment under title I of the bill relates to construction grants for health professions training. This amendment is aimed at simplifying and making more efficient the authorities related to the support of construction so that schools planning to construct facilities to serve a variety of functions will not be forced to deal with several authorities and several different review procedures and priorities.

Under present law, a medical or dental school applies under the health professions educational assistance construction program for funds to construct teaching facilities. But if a school is planning to construct a medical library or a research facility, the school must make separate application under those respective programs. Each application must be separately reviewed and must meet separate sets of criteria.

Moreover, under the present program, teaching space in a school can be constructed only if the space will be used for teaching programs leading to degrees as doctor of medicine, doctor of dentistry, or other first health professional degree. The amendment we are proposing would allow the inclusion in the construction grant of space for graduate, continuation or other advanced training activities, as well as training directly related to the first professional degree.

Our amendment would also authorize a school to make one application under the health professions educational assistance construction program if the project is for the construction of facilities which are used to a substantial extent for teaching purposes, but which will also be used for health research purposes or medical library purposes.

In short, we hope to bring about a more efficient and better coordinated support of a teaching facility.

This bill would authorize the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare to increase the Federal share of construction costs in "unusual circumstances."

In addition to these proposed changes relating to construction grants, the bill includes several significant revisions with respect to grants to schools for support or improvement of their teaching programs.

Institutional and special project grants

The law now provides for two classes of grants: Basic improvement grant and special improvement grants. The former are distributed