

percent limit on the portion of the loan that may be canceled because of such service.

Coupled with the loan program, the scholarships would allow institutions greater flexibility in meeting individual students' financial requirements and provide more realistic support to meet their educational costs.

Finally, the accreditation provision would be amended to delete the authority of the Commissioner of Education to accredit the schools directly. It would also authorize the Commissioner to utilize the services of State agencies, as well as professional accrediting agencies, in evaluating the quality of training offered by nursing schools applying for Federal assistance.

ALLIED HEALTH AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Allied health

As mentioned earlier, under title III of the bill the allied health professions program would be extended for 1 year, with a few clarifying amendments. We have been operating only a year under this authority, and we have not had sufficient experience to recommend either piecemeal amendments or major changes in the act. We feel there should be a thorough review of the program, careful analysis of its strengths and weaknesses prior to any significant modification or extension.

Public health

The program of traineeships for graduate or specialized training in public health and the program of grants to institutions for strengthening or expanding public health training would be extended for 4 years.

HEALTH RESEARCH FACILITIES

I want to turn now to title IV of H.R. 15757.

The health research facilities construction program has played a major role in improving the quality and quantity of the Nation's health research over the past decade.

Since first authorized in 1956, 406 medical schools, universities, graduate schools in the healing arts, and other nonprofit institutions have received \$452 million in project funds.

These dollars have remodeled or constructed hundreds of laboratories and research facilities and provided equipment for difficult and increasingly complex research into the causes and cures of disease and the basic elements of life itself.

There have been more than 1,100 project awards, involving every State plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico; 913 of these projects are completed. Construction has begun on an additional 185. And 53 more are preparing for construction.

In many cases these construction grants have enabled new medical schools to incorporate research facilities into their basic design.

In other cases, existing schools and other institutions have been able to expand greatly their research capacity and enhance their training programs by attracting and utilizing researchers and their findings.