

costs of medical schools and for educational improvement and innovation which could shorten the time required for medical education. The bill before the subcommittee provides a means of furnishing the Federal component of the necessary financial resources.

Mr. Chairman, we would now like to comment specifically on the provisions of H.R. 15757 relating to the training of health personnel.

HEALTH PROFESSIONS TRAINING

Construction grants

H.R. 15757 extends for 4 years the program of grants for construction of teaching facilities for medical personnel and authorizes "such sums as may be necessary" for appropriation in each year. As was pointed out in the joint AMA-AAMC statement on health manpower, "initiative for development of new schools and expansion of the established institutions should be locally determined." It is difficult to predict exactly how many new schools will be initiated and how many existing schools will choose to expand in any given year, but it is important that Federal matching funds for construction be available as the plans of individual schools are developed and the local matching funds are obtained. Delays in Federal funding not only complicate local planning but may greatly increase total costs because of rising costs of construction and general inflation. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, we would urge in this legislation, and in providing appropriations, that necessary Federal funds be made available when needed so that the orderly development and expansion of medical schools will continue without unnecessary delay.

Another provision of the proposed legislation permits a school to make one application to the health professions educational assistance program rather than separate applications to different agencies for teaching, research and library facilities. Since these are integral portions of any medical school it is reasonable to incorporate them in a single application which can be considered as a whole. This desirable provision should simplify and facilitate the process of obtaining Federal matching funds for construction.

The bill would also permit space for graduate and continuing medical education and other advanced training to be included in the construction project. This is a significant improvement, since graduate and continuing education should be treated as a part of the continuum of medical education in the modern medical center.

Institutional and special project grants

The American Medical Association has long favored "diverse sources of support for medical schools under circumstances that prevent any extramural source from exercising controlling influence." Recently, the American Medical Association's Commission on Research recommended that there should be increased funds from both public and private sources for the support of educational programs in medical schools, to correct the imbalance between biomedical research and education caused by the "heavy, but desirable, Federal support of research." The recommendation further stated that there should be a greatly increased allotment of Federal funds for the operational expenses of medical schools, to be matched by those schools through pri-