

that the support furnished by these measures will continue to be required for some years ahead, especially in view of the considerable number of laws passed by Congress in recent years establishing new and widely broadened health care benefits to various groups of people such as the elderly, the categorically needy, the medically indigent and young children from impoverished families.

Our paramount purpose, then, in appearing before you today is to make clear our support for H.R. 15757 and to urge favorable consideration of it by this committee. In this brief oral statement, we would like to outline the progress that has been made in recent years, the continuing need for this legislation and, finally, our view of some of the changes the measures you are considering would make in the existing programs.

### *Construction*

Since the inception of the Health Professions Educational Assistance Act of 1963, a total of 33 applications involving construction, renovation, or rehabilitation have been received from 29 dental schools. These applications include plans for new dental schools as well as additions to or replacement of existing facilities.

As a result of only those construction grants that have been funded, it is our understanding that places for 718 additional first-year students will be created. An additional 195 places will come into being as a result of applications that have been approved but are not yet funded. There are four applications awaiting approval which, if approved and funded, will add 91 more places. And finally, 12 schools have given notice of intention to apply for grants by submitting plans that, in total, would provide 427 new first-year places. If all goes well, we can project a 1973 freshman enrollment of some 5,455 as compared with the current figures, 4,198.

It is important to note that these accomplishments and projections are being carried out on the basis of a genuine partnership with the Federal Government. The 33 applications that have been received involve a total estimated cost of \$216 million, of which some \$98 million would come from non-Federal sources.

In order to fulfill these projections fully, however, H.R. 15757 must be approved. The sums authorized under the existing law are not sufficient. As of February 21, 1968, approximately \$77 million had been distributed by the Federal Government for dental-school construction. Applications that are approved but unfunded, deferred or pending will require an additional \$50 million, and anticipated applications will call for \$83 million more. As of June 10, only some \$1 million was available but not obligated. Considering solely those applications that are approved but unfunded, this constitutes a deficit of nearly \$28 million. If all applications now pending or anticipated are approved, the deficit would be at least \$133 million. Extension of the law is, then, mandatory in our opinion.

Extrapolation of figures submitted by the administration indicates that it contemplates allocating about \$170 million to dental-school construction over the 4-year life of the bill. Measured against need, we consider this to be a conservative figure.

Title I of H.R. 15757, which relates to construction, would not only extend existing law but would also amend some aspects of it. The bill would, for example, eliminate the provision that prevents the use