

physical sciences and to train others as research workers and as public health officials.

Today veterinary medicine is so much a part of the health of man that this profession and its future practitioners should receive the same consideration with respect to federal support as medicine and the other health professions. It is essential that basic improvement grants be continued and extended to our nation's veterinary schools so that they can continue in their expanding contribution to our nation's health.

Sincerely,

LUTHER L. TERRY, M.D.,
Vice President for Medical Affairs.

THE AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION, INC.,
Washington, D.C., June 12, 1968.

HON. JOHN JARMAN.

Chairman, Subcommittee on Public Health and Welfare, Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I wish to inform you of the American Public Health Association's views on legislation which your Committee is now considering relative to the continuation of programs intended to assist in the development of health manpower, H.R. 15757. The APHA in the past has supported each of the programs contained in this legislative proposal; I would like to comment on them individually and suggest improvements to the basic legislation.

The APHA recommends that the authorization for the Health Professions Educational Assistance Act be continued. The impact of initial authorization has yet to be felt because of the time lag necessary to realize originally intended benefits. Considerable time is needed to increase the ranks of physicians, dentists, and other health professionals and this should in no way overshadow the nation's duty to increase their number. Our Association believes that the authority of this provision should include colleges of veterinary medicine as institutions eligible for basic improvement grants. Contributions of doctors of veterinary medicine to human health are well known; and there is a need to train even more individuals in the field of veterinary medicine. We recommend, therefore, that basic improvement grants be made available to colleges of veterinary medicine.

The American Public Health Association also believes there is a justification for continuing the priority for training nurses. The shortage of qualified nurses is a critical problem not only in the health programs recently authorized by Congress, but in delivering existent health care needed throughout the country. Consequently, we urge that the authority for nurse training be continued.

The third title under this Act relates to the training of allied health professionals. We urge the continuation of this authority and point out that this program has not had an opportunity to prove its worth. This is due in part, we think, to the inadequate financing appropriated. It is worth noting that until skilled persons assume the responsibility for the various roles in the medical care spectrum, the already overworked physicians, dentists and nurses will continually fail to meet the monumental demands for health care. Therefore, we support the continuation of the authority for allied health professional training.

Most certainly the grant authority proposed by the bill, H.R. 15757, should be extended for project grants to train personnel in schools of: public health, nursing, engineering, in departments of preventive medicine at medical schools, and in other appropriate areas. We are not familiar with the Administration's views on the amounts of funds needed to implement these programs. There might be some reason for persons to disagree as to what is necessary, but we would urge that these authorizations be at least equal to and preferably exceed authorizations contained in the present Act.

We hope that Congress will act affirmatively on this forthcoming legislation and we hope it will incorporate our suggested changes within this legislation.

I would appreciate your making these recommendations a part of the hearing records.

Sincerely yours,

BERWYN F. MATTISON, M.D.,
Executive Director.