

high school. Podiatrists are licensed by examining boards in every state to treat the foot by medical and surgical means.

As your Committee will know, the podiatry profession has been deeply concerned for many years about the problem of providing a supply of well educated professionals adequate to meet the health needs of our people. As a direct result of the provisions of the Health Professions Educational Assistance Act the five accredited colleges of podiatry have been able to increase first-year student enrollment from 167 four years ago to 311 this year, an increase of 86.2 percent during this period.

Despite the increasing number of well qualified graduates the Nation's critical shortage of podiatrists is as yet only being abated very slowly. Podiatric care is becoming more available to larger proportions of our population. The Congress last session included podiatrists' services for Medicare beneficiaries. Also, Title XIX programs in the various states utilize the services of podiatrists. The facilities and resources of the colleges of podiatric medicine are cooperating fully with these community health programs.

In other areas increasing numbers of podiatrists are being sought for positions on community public health teams. The armed services have doubled the spaces for podiatrists during the past two years and further expansion is projected. Podiatrists are making increasing contributions to the Nation's health manpower resources.

The U.S. Department of Labor in Report No. 323, June, 1967, "Health Manpower 1966-75—A Study of Requirements and Supply," pinpoints the need for increased numbers of podiatrists. "To meet projected needs, the average annual number of graduates of podiatry colleges must be increased substantially above the current levels between 1966 and 1975. Some increases in facilities are expected as a result of funds provided by the Health Professions Educational Assistance Act of 1963. However, a great deal of additional action is necessary to increase the capacity of the schools," says the report.

Our purpose is to make clear our support of H.R. 15757 and to urge favorable consideration of it by this Committee. In this statement, we would like to outline the progress that has been made in recent years and the need for continuation of this legislation.

Construction.—All five colleges of podiatric medicine are planning construction of new facilities and major expansion and renovation of existing facilities. One college has received approval for matching construction funds under the present act. Additionally, projects and plans are underway for the opening of one or more new colleges within the next four to six years.

Institutional grants.—Collectively, the member institutions of the American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine received \$559,850 for Basic Improvement Grants for FY 1968. These funds were used almost exclusively to employ new faculty, increase faculty salaries, convert part time faculty to full time faculty, and to provide supporting staff for the faculty. As a result of these grants the educational program has been considerably enlarged and much enriched.

Special project grants.—The Special Project Grant requests for FY 1968 (\$1,234,817) will be used to augment the faculty programs begun in the basic improvement area. The funds will be used to provide additional teaching personnel, additional supporting personnel, additional necessary teaching equipment and supplies in both the basic science and clinical science divisions, as well as for other related faculty improvement projects.

Scholarship grants.—In FY 1968, 120 podiatry students received \$84,389 in scholarship support. The amount of monies requested by the students was approximately double the sum which was finally allocated. Based upon a survey conducted by the American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine in January, 1968, it has been determined that over one-half of the students currently receiving scholarship funds would not have been able to continue in college had they not received these awards.

Student loans.—In FY 1968, 384 students received \$397,879 in loan support. The same situation exists for loans as for scholarship grants. Without these funds fully one-half of the student body would either have been totally unable to continue their podiatric education or would have been forced to seek extramural, less accessible forms of educational financial assistance.

It should be noted that the aforementioned figures for scholarships and student loans are equally applicable to both categories. Many podiatry students are deriving assistance from multiple sources. It is the opinion of the American