

Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine that increased financial assistance to the individual students under the direct control of the colleges would ensure more future practitioners and students better qualified to pursue studies in an atmosphere not characterized by omnipresent financial worries, and without limiting matriculants to the upper socio-economic strata.

The American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine is pleased to take this opportunity to express its strong support for H.R. 15757 entitled "Health Manpower Act of 1968." This bill when enacted by the Congress will have a positive and substantial impact upon the future health of the American public by making it possible to increase the number of doctors of podiatric medicine (valued members of the health manpower pool) by providing continued assistance for improvements in the teaching programs of podiatry colleges, and by providing loans and scholarships for young scholars who otherwise might not be able to consider a career in podiatry.

It is our opinion that H.R. 15757 will provide some of the funds needed to meet critical problems facing the health professions today. On behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine it is respectfully requested that this statement on H.R. 15757 be considered by your Committee and included in the record of these hearings.

Respectfully yours,

MAX M. POMERANTZ, M.D.,
President.

THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY,
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE,
DEPARTMENT OF PATHOLOGY,
Baltimore, Md., June 10, 1968.

Representative HARLEY O. STAGGERS,
Chairman, Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce,
Rayburn Building, Washington D.C.

DEAR MR. STAGGERS: This is to affirm support of The Health Manpower Act of 1968 and to urge an amendment which would extend institutional support to include veterinary medicine, for the contributions of veterinary medicine to human health in the field of comparative medicine and research are especially vital.

It has become apparent that studying the naturally occurring diseases of animals which are counterparts of human disease can make significant contributions to medical knowledge. To mention but a few, studies of the causes and treatment of such human diseases as leukemia, heart disease, and inherited disorders, have good equivalents in animals and are being explored by applied and basic methods which could not be utilized on human patients. Veterinarians, because of their backgrounds in Animal Medicine are best equipped to perform many of the investigations.

There are currently 10 veterinarians actively engaged in teaching and research in comparative medicine at Johns Hopkins. Five of these persons are in post doctoral training programs which will prepare them for careers in comparative medicine. Several medical schools have formed departments within their faculties to develop similar programs and also to provide the necessary care for experimental animals for this has often been neglected. Medical schools are actively seeking personnel to staff these departments, but unfortunately the other demands of veterinary medicine continue to require virtually all available graduates.

The future of medical research and teaching will depend to a continually greater extent upon comparative medicine and the contributions of veterinarians specifically trained in these areas. Veterinary medicine is a very small profession as compared to medicine and to impose limitations on the availability of veterinarians for careers in comparative medicine will certainly compound the shortages already present. The needs of future populations, not only in these areas, but even more critically in the care of food producing animals, will certainly be far greater than at present.

In consideration of the above points, we strongly urge the inclusion of veterinary medicine for institutional support under The Health Manpower Act.