

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY,
THE MILTON S. HERSHEY MEDICAL CENTER,
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE,
Hershey, Pa., June 11, 1968.

HON. HARLEY STAGGERS,
Chairman, Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee,
House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN STAGGERS: I regret that it will not be possible for me to attend the hearings on HR 15757 scheduled later this week before your Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce. I will be out of the country on an assignment for the Association of American Medical Colleges.

I am Dean of The Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine which has this year taken its first class of medical students.

In the teaching of medical students for the ultimate care of human patients, animals are widely used in laboratory teaching exercises. We have completed this year at Hershey a model facility for the housing of animals for both teaching and research. These facilities have been constructed with the aid of matching funds provided by the Congress. It would be impossible to do the type of teaching without these facilities.

The operation of the facilities and the care of the animals is the responsibility of graduate veterinarians who work full-time for the Medical School, in addition to caring for the animals to see that optimum provision is made for their welfare. The veterinarians study the diseases which appear naturally in animals. Many of these diseases are caused by the same agents which produce human disease of similar character. The lessons learned from study of such disease processes can often be applied more easily and quickly than if the studies were initiated first in the human being.

Training of veterinarians to serve in medical schools is initially done in colleges of veterinary medicine. These institutions need more support, both to train the professional people who may ultimately work in a medical school and to conduct research done primarily on the animals and animal diseases themselves. The basic information on the causes of many types of chronic illnesses which are becoming increasingly important in human disease processes requires long-term study of animals. Research is also badly needed in the basic biologic aspects of behavior, both of the group and of the individuals. Much behavioral research can be effectively done in animals species and the principles then extrapolated to the human being.

I urge your support of legislation which will improve the facilities needed for the training of veterinarians who will perform studies that ultimately will have an impact on human health.

If I can comment in any further way on any of the points in the bill you have under consideration, please command me.

Respectfully yours,

GEORGE T. HARRIS, M.D., Dean.

CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY,
FRANCES PAYNE BOLTON SCHOOL OF NURSING,
Cleveland, Ohio, April 29, 1968.

HON. HARLEY O. STAGGERS,
Chairman, Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce,
House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. STAGGERS: I am writing to you with regard to the proposed Health Manpower Act of 1968. I wish to comment particularly about items in Title II of the bill.

As it now stands, the bill would require that a State agency would be named as an accrediting authority for schools of nursing eligible to receive Federal funds. I oppose this provision vigorously as a nurse educator and as a citizen interested in wise use of Federal funds and in support of legislation that will improve the health care of citizens in our country.

Voluntary accreditation has been the one force that has remarkably upgraded the quality of nursing education in our country. Currently, seventy-five per cent of all students enrolled in nursing schools are enrolled in schools having such accreditation. Graduation from an accredited school almost without exception is a guarantee that a graduate will be able to pass the licensing examinations; in contrast, graduation from a nonaccredited school does not give such assurance. We cannot afford to waste Federal funds in support of education that is not worthy of accreditation by the national voluntary accreditation