

MISSISSIPPI NURSES' ASSOCIATION,
Jackson, Miss., June 24, 1968.

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

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE STAGGERS: Through recent communications, I have learned that the American Nurses' Association has expressed concern to you about the proposed change in the definition of accreditation, Section 231 of HR 15757.

On behalf of the members of the Mississippi Nurses' Association, I want to express our concern and re-affirm the position of the American Nurses' Association. We vigorously oppose the use of tax funds to nursing programs that have not raised standards for national accreditation or for reasonable assurance of accreditation by a recognized national accrediting body.

Omission of accreditation by a national accrediting agency will lower standards only. Two schools in our state have been accredited by a national agency (National League for Nursing).

We are having a high percentage of failures (51%—1967) on state board examinations. The Nurses Board of Examination and Registration feels that if all schools would raise standards above the minimum requirements by a state accrediting agency, there would be less failures. The failure rate is of great concern in this state and could be improved with upgrading standards.

Our aim is for quality professional care and any lowering of standards could only result in a down hill trend—quality is certainly more to be desired than quantity no matter how great the shortage.

We urge you to support national voluntary accreditation of nursing programs as pre-requisite for eligibility to apply for federal funds and will appreciate your interest and influence in removing the clause "or by a state agency" to the language of the Act.

Sincerely,

Mrs. ONEITA DONGIEUX,
Executive Director.

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK,
New York, N.Y., May 31, 1968.

HON. F. J. HORTON,
House Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. HORTON: The House of Delegates of this Society adopted the following resolution at its annual meeting in February 1968.

Resolved, That this House of Delegates of the Medical Society of the State of New York urge that the appropriate Federal agency study the proportion of graduating physicians who enter the field of medical research and the extent to which Federal support encourages duplication of research and diverts needed manpower from medical practice.

The Council directed me to transmit this statement to the senators and representatives from New York State.

Sincerely yours,

HENRY I. FINEBERG, M.D.,
Executive Vice-President.

MERCER UNIVERSITY,
Macon, Ga., June 13, 1968.

HON. JOHN JARMAN,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Public Health and Welfare,
Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN JARMAN: The bill H.R. 15757, known as the Health Manpower Act of 1968, deserves and will receive the support of all educators in medical and medical-related education. I deeply hope that it will be passed.

Mercer University owns and operates the Southern School of Pharmacy in Atlanta, Georgia, and consequently we are conscious of the critical needs of all health educational endeavor, but especially pharmaceutical education. It is fortunate for us at this time that pharmacy is included in the Special Projects Grants under Title I, Part B, Section 772 of H.R. 15757.