



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

APR 8 1965

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in response to your request of April 1, 1965, for a report on H.R. 3708, "Older Americans Act of 1965," as passed by the House of Representatives.

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minorities
Burd*

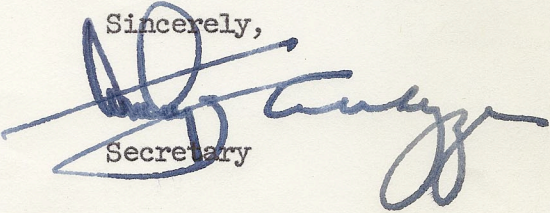
This bill authorizes appropriations for grants to the States for community planning and coordination, demonstration programs, and training of special personnel for work with older persons. It further authorizes appropriations for grants to public or nonprofit, private agencies, organizations, and institutions for study, development, demonstration, and evaluation projects relating to the needs of older persons and for the specialized training of individuals in carrying out such projects. It also establishes a new administrative unit in the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare under the direction of a Commissioner of Aging to be appointed by the President with the consent of the Senate.

On September 17, 1963, I appeared before the House Select Subcommittee on Education to testify on H.R. 7957, a bill in the 88th Congress almost identical to H.R. 3708. At that time I endorsed wholeheartedly the provision for grants, including those for community planning, services, training and research. I pointed out that they were in accordance with the recommendations of the President. I also discussed the need for providing opportunities for meaningful use of free time that comes with retirement and recommended that the Subcommittee consider including in its bill additional grants for constructing, equipping, and operating multi-purpose activity centers for older people. I also mentioned grant proposals to provide increased employment opportunities for older persons who are able and wish to continue to work.

We would therefore recommend passage of the grant titles of H.R. 3708. We would go even further and recommend grants for multi-purpose activity centers and employment opportunities. We would prefer to have the responsibility for the administration of the titles of the bill vested in the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare and to leave him with administrative flexibility in its administration. We do not favor the amendments adopted on the floor of the House which would limit the Secretary's authority to make research and development projects and training projects.

We are advised by the Bureau of the Budget that there is no objection to the presentation of this report and that legislation to improve opportunities for older Americans would be in accord with the program of the President.

Sincerely,


Secretary

Honorable Lister Hill
Chairman, Committee on Labor and Public Welfare
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.