

REMARKS OF HONORABLE JOHN E. FUGARTY, 2nd DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND, ON INTRODUCTION OF BILL TO AUTHORIZE A FIVE YEAR PROGRAM OF GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF MEDICAL AND DENTAL EDUCATIONAL AND RESEARCH FACILITIES, MARCH 7, 1955.

The bill for federal participation in the cost of modernizing and improving our medical and dental schools has long been needed. It is based on the principle of federal funds matching those raised in the local community that has proven so effective under the Hospital-Construction Act of 1947.

There can be little doubt of the construction needs of our medical and dental schools. Most of them have struggled for years in order to meet their yearly operating costs with no funds available for alterations and modernization, to say nothing of urgently needed additions. We have expected them to turn out fine physicians and dentists for the care of civilians, for our Armed Forces, for Public Health, and for many other activities, and at the same time carry an ever increasing amount of research to improve our health. These ever increasing activities and the resulting costs have been met in many ways and by various agencies. The students have been asked to bear as much of this as possible, but when a year's tuition and fees approach \$1000, not to mention books, instruments, room, board, and clothing, the breaking point has been reached. None of us can afford to allow medicine and dentistry to become professions only for the well-to-do, and it is rapidly approaching that position.

Even with this high tuition, only approximately one third of the cost of their education is met by the students. The other two thirds must be met by the institution, from endowment income, subsidization from other sources, state appropriations, gifts, donations and the like. The practicing doctors have participated through Alumni Giving to their schools and through the American Medical Association's Foundation for Medical Education. Industry is beginning to help meet these operating costs through the National Fund for Medical Education. Some of our States are now carrying a heavy burden, but not all states have medical or dental schools and about fifty per cent of our schools are not eligible at present to receive state aid. Many individuals and many foundations have contributed generously to help meet these rising costs. Yet with all this struggle to finance medical and dental education, the faculties are poorly paid, and they must be dedicated souls to continue with such high ideals to meet our health needs, as they have been doing so well.

Isn't it time that the Federal Government recognize this situation and participate in helping in its solution? It would seem that the logical place to participate is by giving assistance in modernizing and providing for the necessary additions. In the constant struggle to meet operating costs, little if any funds have been available for this purpose. Many of our schools were built many years ago and are in serious need of capital funds for improvement.

This bill authorizes an appropriation yearly for five years for these purposes. The school must match these funds dollar for dollar if the enrollment cannot be increased. If the freshmen enrollment can be increased five per cent or more, they need only match 33 1/3 per cent to the Federal Government's 66 2/3 per cent. The bill is patterned after the Hill-Burton Hospital Construction Act with similar provisions and safeguards. I feel it will help assure the very necessary supply of carefully prepared physicians and dentists for our medical care and teachers and scientists to carry on the fine tradition of our medical and dental schools.

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