

**STATEMENT OF HONORABLE JOHN E. FOGARTY, U. S.
REPRESENTATIVE SECOND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
OF RHODE ISLAND TO THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH
AND SAFETY OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON INTERSTATE
AND FOREIGN COMMERCE IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 6325
AND HR 6871 ON JUNE 24, 1959**

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee:

I wish to be counted among the several members of the Congress who are strongly in favor of the two measures which you are considering today. I commend you, Mr. Chairman, for seeing to it that H.R. 6325 and H.R. 6871 are taken up at the same time. This is most appropriate and practical because, together, these bills go straight to the heart of a serious national problem, the shortage of trained personnel in Federal, State and local and voluntary health agencies.

Passage of one of these bills alone will not solve the problem. Adoption of the essential provisions of both bills by the 86th Congress will constitute a long step toward solution. I would like to re-emphasize this point, Mr. Chairman, because I believe it is

basic to these deliberations. Together, these measures provide for the two essentials of a successful public health traineeship program. One essential is trainees - physicians, dentists, engineers, nurses and other basically-trained specialists willing to receive instruction for careers in public health. Assurance of a continuing supply of trainees will be provided in H.R. 6325 renewing the Health Amendments Act of 1956. The other essential is training institutions, numerous enough and well enough staffed and equipped to accommodate trainees in increasing numbers and to give them adequate instruction. The necessary strengthening of existing institutions in the public health field and assistance in the establishment of much-needed new schools of public health are provided in H.R. 6671. Thus, these two equally important measures go hand in hand, complementing each other indispensably.

It is gratifying to me, Mr. Chairman, that you and the other distinguished sponsors of H.R. 6671

and related bills have noted the fact that construction of additional teaching facilities by the schools of public health is an absolute prerequisite to any substantial increase in student enrollment. Overcrowding of the schools by students at present enrollment levels is a particularly serious situation, when we realize that only half of the qualified applicants for traineeships have received awards. This means that, if sufficient funds are appropriated, we could double the number of trainees. On the other hand, there is a real question of whether the schools would have room for them. As Chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee dealing with the Public Health Service budget, I have become keenly aware of this space problem which is also acutely present in medical and dental schools. I have, therefore, introduced H.R. 6906 which would authorize matching construction grants, not only for existing schools to add to their physical facilities, but also for new schools which should be established as another means of increasing the supply of physicians, dentists and public health

specialists. I hope that this overall approach will be considered by the 86th Congress in order to stimulate the building of urgently-needed health educational and research facilities for medical, dental and public health schools. Meanwhile, the needs of the schools of public health in this respect have been clearly defined by the National Conference on Public Health Training and it is fitting that provision for helping to meet these needs should be included in a bill that aims to implement the Conference recommendations.

Having recently returned from the World Health Assembly in Geneva, I am more impressed than ever with the need for strengthening and expanding public health training programs as a basis for extending research efforts in the laboratory and in the field. In fact, the ultimate success of the "Health for Peace" effort which is the subject of H.J. Res 370 referred to this subcommittee, will depend on the availability of

American and foreign health experts with advanced training such as the accredited schools of public health in this country can provide, if adequately financed. As the sponsor of H.J. Res 370, I am, therefore, extremely hopeful that, concurrently with its enactment into law by the 86th Congress, there be enacted legislation such as H.R. 6325 and H.R. 6871 to assure an increase in the number of trained public health personnel for service in this country and abroad in furtherance of U.S. foreign policy throughout the free world.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Subcommittee, you have before you two soundly-conceived measures which represent the thinking and considered views of our nation's public health leaders as to what is needed to safeguard the health of our citizens and also, as I have indicated, to promote the cause of peace and international understanding through the humanitarian work of health ambassadors. I urge you to accept these recommendations by acting favorably on H.R. 6325 and H.R. 6871. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to testify.