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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
Washington, D.C. 20503-0001

Wednesday, March 25, 1998

LEGISLATIVE REFERRAL MEMORANDUM

URGENT

TO: Legislative Liaison Officer - See Distribution below

FROM: Janet R. Forsgren (for) Assistant Director for Legislative Reference
OMB CONTACT: Robert J. Pellicci
PHONE: (202)395-4871 FAX: (202)395-6148

SUBJECT: HHS Report on S1754 Health Professions Education Partnerships Act of 1998

DEADLINE: 4:00 p.m. Thursday, March 26, 1998

In accordance with OMB Circular A-19, OMB requests the views of your agency on the above subject before advising on its relationship to the program of the President. Please advise us if this item will affect direct spending or receipts for purposes of the "Pay-As-You-Go" provisions of Title XIII of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990.

COMMENTS: HHS would like to transmit attached letter to the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources on Friday, March 27th.

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The Honorable James Jeffords
Chairman, Committee on Labor
and Human Resources
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As your Committee considers S. 1754, the Health Professions Education Partnerships Act of 1998, I want to take this opportunity to give the Administration's views on this legislation. The Administration is very supportive of S. 1754.

The legislation would consolidate and extend through Fiscal Year 2002 a number of existing programs of assistance to nursing and health professions schools and students. These program authorities would be grouped into seven main categories: Minority Health Professions Training; Primary Care Medicine and Dentistry Training; Interdisciplinary Community-based Linkages; Workforce Information and Analysis; Public Health Workforce Development; Nursing Education; and Student Financial Assistance. The health professions training provisions in S. 1754 are consistent with the Administration's recommendations for reform in this area, as outlined by the Acting Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration at the April 25, 1997 hearing held by your Committee.

S. 1754 would permit the most effective use of resources by consolidating several programs into a smaller number of functional categories. In addition, the legislation would sharpen the focus of these programs on outcomes, encourage collaboration among health and educational institutions, and simplify program administration. The legislation would assist us in strengthening the Federal Government's partnership with State and local governments, educational institutions, professional groups, and community organizations to bring about needed changes in health workforce training and practice.

S. 1754 would also amend and extend some other programs administered by this Department, including the Office of Minority Health, and we are supportive of those extensions. In addition, the bill would reauthorize several important prevention authorities of the Centers for Disease Control, including immunization grants; tuberculosis control, research, demonstration, education, and training; community lead poisoning prevention; and, community programs on domestic violence.

We applaud your commitment to health professions education and training, as reflected in S. 1754. The strategy embodied in this bill represents an important program reform which will improve the quality of services offered by the Federal Government and expand the availability of training opportunities and health care to residents of rural and underserved communities. We look forward to working with you as the bill moves through the legislative process.

The Office of Management and Budget has advised that there is no objection to the presentation of this report to the Congress, and that enactment of S. 1754 would be consistent with the program of the President.

Sincerely,

Donna E. Shalala