

FYI

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Key
Please File

July 18, 1980

Dear Colleague:

As you begin your conference with the Members of the Senate on the Higher Education Reauthorization Act, we would like to bring one issue to your attention -- the Daniel "Chappie" James Preventive Health Facility at Tuskegee Institute.

In the Senate version of the Higher Education Reauthorization Act (S. 1839 - Title XXI), an amendment was added which would authorize \$6 million for the construction of this facility at the alma mater of the late Four-Star General Daniel "Chappie" James. We urge you to vote in favor of that amendment during the conference.

The amendment is essentially the Senate version of H.R. 5004 which was referred to the Education and Labor Committee of which you are a member. As you know, the center will serve as a regional facility for preventive health education and health maintenance. Its primary objectives will be to conduct research, instruction and outreach activities for the students of Tuskegee Institute as well as the residents of the Southeast region.

Probably the most important factor about this center is that it is the first of its kind in the country. This is due to the fact that up until this point, there has been little attention on preventive health care.

However, we believe the time has come for the federal government to focus on preventive health care and health maintenance. As statistics increasingly underscore the escalating cost of health care, it is time for this nation to explore alternatives to formalized health care and hospitalization. This would be beneficial especially to those persons who are least able to afford quality health care.

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The amendment we are asking you to support in conference will provide such an alternative by providing the foundation for techniques and methodologies in preventive health care. This \$6 million appropriation is small compared to the millions of federal dollars which have been allocated for research in the areas of heart disease, lung cancer and other illnesses.

To this date, no committed effort by the federal government has been made to study preventive health care methods. In the long run, it will be more beneficial to both the American people and the government to try to head off diseases than to treat and cure them through costly hospitalization and health care.

Therefore, we see the Daniel "Chappie" James Preventive Health Care Facility at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama as the first step in that direction. Accordingly, we urge you to agree to the Senate version of the Higher Education Reauthorization Act on this issue.

Sincerely,



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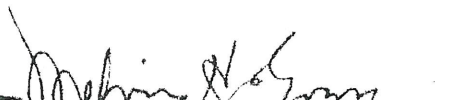
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