

KANSAS MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION CONVENTION  
WICHITA, KANSAS  
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1967  
REMARKS OF CONGRESSMAN BOB DOLE

*17th Annual*

"RECENT LEGISLATIVE PROGRESS IN MENTAL HEALTH"

MENTAL HEALTH AMENDMENTS OF 1967 BECOME LAW

I KNOW YOU ARE ALL AWARE THE CONGRESS HAS PASSED THE MENTAL HEALTH AMENDMENTS OF 1967. THESE AMENDMENTS WERE PASSED BY THE HOUSE ON MAY 17TH, AND BY THE SENATE ON JUNE 8TH. THEY BECAME PUBLIC LAW 90-31 ON JUNE 24TH.

BASICALLY, THIS LEGISLATION PROVIDES GRANTS TO CONSTRUCT AND STAFF COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTERS FOR ANOTHER THREE YEARS. DURING THE NEXT THREE YEARS, \$180 MILLION ARE AUTHORIZED FOR CONSTRUCTION, AND \$88 MILLION FOR STAFFING THE CENTERS.

BY THE END OF THIS FISCAL YEAR, THERE WILL BE 286 COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTERS FUNDED UNDER THIS LEGISLATION, SERVING OVER 47 MILLION PERSONS THROUGHOUT MOST OF THE STATES. IN KANSAS, CENTERS IN HAYS AND NEWTON ARE FUNDED FOR OVER \$360,000 -- INCLUDING STAFF AND CONSTRUCTION EXPENSES.

REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE PROGRAM

A COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTER, IN ORDER TO RECEIVE ASSISTANCE, MUST OFFER SERVICES TO MEET THE MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS OF ALL PEOPLE LIVING IN A DEFINITE AREA: THE YOUNG AND THE OLD, THE RICH AND THE POOR, AND THOSE CONSIDERED TO HAVE TYPES OF ILLNESS DIFFICULT TO TREAT.

THE NEW CENTERS ARE REACHING BIG-CITY DWELLERS, SUBURBANITES, AND RURAL PERSONS. NEARLY 150 PREDOMINATELY RURAL COUNTIES ARE SERVED BY EXISTING CENTERS.

IN ORDER TO STREAMLINE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROGRAM, AND ALLOW COMMUNITIES THE MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY IN ACQUIRING THEIR MENTAL HEALTH CENTER, AN AMENDMENT AUTHORIZED THIS YEAR ALLOWS FOR THE PURCHASE OF STANDING BUILDINGS FOR

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MENTAL HEALTH FACILITIES, RATHER THAN ONLY NEW CONSTRUCTION AS IN THE PAST.

BROAD-BASED ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROGRAM

WHEN THE MENTAL HEALTH AMENDMENTS OF 1967 WERE BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON INTERSTATE AND FOREIGN COMMERCE, THERE WERE NO WITNESSES IN OPPOSITION TO THE MEASURE. FURTHERMORE, THE HOUSE PASSED THE MEASURE BY THE UNANIMOUS VOTE OF 353-0. PERHAPS THIS IS THE BEST INDICATION I CAN GIVE YOU OF THE BROAD-BASED SUPPORT ENJOYED BY MENTAL HEALTH IMPROVEMENT EFFORTS IN THE CONGRESS.

EVENTUALLY, CONSTRUCTION AND STAFFING OF 2000 COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTERS IS PLANNED UNDER THIS LEGISLATION. THESE CENTERS ARE ENVISIONED TO SERVE THE NEEDS OF ALL THE PEOPLE. EVEN TODAY, HALF OF OUR HOSPITAL BEDS ARE OCCUPIED BY MENTAL HEALTH PATIENTS. I HAVE READ STATISTICS SHOWING ONE OUT OF TEN AMERICANS, AT SOME PERIOD IN LIFE, WILL SPEND SOME TIME IN AN INSTITUTION OR REHABILITATION CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH.

PARTNERSHIP FOR HEALTH AMENDMENTS OF 1967

OTHER 90TH CONGRESS LEGISLATION OF INTEREST TO THOSE CONCERNED WITH MENTAL HEALTH IS H.R. 6418, COMMONLY CALLED THE PARTNERSHIP FOR HEALTH AMENDMENTS OF 1967.

UNDER THIS BILL, AS APPROVED BY THE HOUSE, FIFTEEN PERCENT OF ALL FORMULA GRANTS TO THE STATES MUST BE RESERVED FOR THE STATES' MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS. THIS WILL ACCOUNT FOR OVER \$45 MILLION THROUGH 1971 FOR MENTAL HEALTH. THIS REQUIREMENT WAS PUT INTO THE FEDERAL LEGISLATION BECAUSE, IN MANY STATES, THE MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM IS NOT ADMINISTERED BY THE STATE HEALTH AGENCY.



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MENTAL RETARDATION AMENDMENTS OF 1967

H.R. 6430, CALLED THE MENTAL RETARDATION AMENDMENTS OF 1967, HAS ALSO PASSED THE HOUSE. AT PRESENT, THIS LEGISLATION IS BEING CONSIDERED BY THE SENATE, AND WILL NO DOUBT EVENTUALLY BECOME LAW.

THIS BILL AUTHORIZES APPROPRIATIONS THROUGH 1970 TOTALING \$216.8 MILLION.

THE TREMENDOUS PROBLEM OF MENTAL RETARDATION IS OFTEN MINIMIZED IN THE UNITED STATES. FEW PERSONS REALIZE THAT THE MENTALLY RETARDED TOTAL OVER 6 MILLION AMERICANS. THAT INCLUDES PERSONS WITH IQ'S OF UNDER 67.

BASICALLY, THIS LEGISLATION PROVIDES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF FACILITIES AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL FOR THE MENTALLY RETARDED, AND FOR RESEARCH INTO METHODS FOR COMBATTING THIS DREAD AFFLICTION, AND PREVENTING IT. SINCE 1963, OVER \$107 MILLION HAS BEEN FUNDED FOR THESE PURPOSES.

EACH YEAR 126,000 CHILDREN ARE BORN WHO AT SOME TIME IN THEIR LIVES WILL BE CONSIDERED MENTALLY RETARDED. THE ATTENTION OF ALL OF US MUST CONTINUE TO FOCUS ON THE PROBLEMS, NOT ONLY OF THE CHILDREN, BUT OF THE FAMILIES INTO WHICH THEY ARE BORN.

CONCLUSION

I AM SURE YOU WILL AGREE THAT THE CONGRESS IS CONCERNED ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH. THIS YEAR MANY DIFFICULT PROBLEMS FACE US. THESE PROBLEMS CENTER AROUND THE LARGE DEFICIT WE FACE IN FEDERAL SPENDING. I HAVE CONTINUALLY URGED THE MAXIMUM CUTS TO MINIMIZE THE DEBT OUR GOVERNMENT WILL INCUR THIS YEAR. BUT MENTAL HEALTH MUST BE SUPPORTED. THE CONGRESS SUPPORTS IT. I AM HAPPY TO KNOW THAT THERE ARE MANY KANSANS ALSO WHO ACTIVELY WORK TOWARD EVENTUAL VICTORY OVER THESE AFFLICTIONS.

YOUR PRESENCE HERE TODAY DEMONSTRATES YOUR COMMITMENT TO THAT VICTORY.