

PETER N. KYROS
1ST DISTRICT, MAINE

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

COMMITTEES:
INTERSTATE AND
FOREIGN COMMERCE
MERCHANT MARINE
AND FISHERIES

May 28, 1971

William F. Bergen, M.D.
Kennebunk, Maine

Dear Doctor Bergen:

It was a pleasure to learn earlier this year that a state-wide 15-member advisory council on medical education had been formed, and that you were named to that council.

Knowing of your interest in medical education in Maine, I am pleased to write to you about legislation which was approved last week by my Public Health and Environment Subcommittee, the "Health Manpower Professions Act of 1971," which will go far to meet critical health manpower needs of this nation.

Of special interest to me, and to you, is a provision in this new bill authorizing aid to states which choose to start new medical schools. Inasmuch as Maine is one of five states with no medical school, and has a problem of medical and health manpower, I am delighted that a way is now open to achievement of our common goal: teaching of our own physicians who would be more likely to practice in Maine.

The single criterion in this legislation for the formation of a new school of medicine is that "... the number of full-time students enrolled in the first academic year of operation will exceed twenty-three." In addition to this, special consideration will be given all grant applications which will assure use of existing facilities, including federal medical or dental facilities, thus accelerating the date on which to begin a teaching program. In short, this means that in Maine, the use of Maine Medical Center, the Togus Veterans' Administration Center, and any of the other private and public health organizations could expedite formation of Maine's medical school.

William F. Bergen, M.D.

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Funding authorized by the legislation is \$10,000 per student in the first year of operation, and this would assure Maine of \$240,000 based upon the 24-student requirement. In succeeding years a formula of gradually reduced grant assistance based upon increased student load would provide a minimum of almost a million dollars by the time Maine is ready to graduate its first class.

The subject of medical manpower in Maine, and corresponding lack of educational facilities, has always been of great concern to me. It was my singular good fortune to be appointed to the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee's Public Health and Environment Subcommittee, and I have sought diligently in the years I have been in Congress to find ways to provide funds for new medical schools, to include Maine. I intend to do everything possible to ensure passage of appropriations to meet this authorization, and I urge you to consider carefully this means of reaching a medical school goal.

The support of your Committee would be indeed welcomed, and I hope that we will have the opportunity to set a date and meet on this issue. I would appreciate having your views, and will be delighted to assist you in any way possible.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,



Peter N. Kyros
Member of Congress

Enclosure