



3-15-1918

## Letter From Willard S. Small to Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson, March 15, 1918

Willard S. Small

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.ursinus.edu/fmhw\\_firstworldwar\\_documents](https://digitalcommons.ursinus.edu/fmhw_firstworldwar_documents)



Part of the [Diplomatic History Commons](#), and the [Political History Commons](#)

[Click here to let us know how access to this document benefits you.](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Small, Willard S., "Letter From Willard S. Small to Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson, March 15, 1918" (1918). *World War I Era Documents, 1914-1918*. 82.

[https://digitalcommons.ursinus.edu/fmhw\\_firstworldwar\\_documents/82](https://digitalcommons.ursinus.edu/fmhw_firstworldwar_documents/82)

This Letter is brought to you for free and open access by the World War I Era (1914-1918) at Digital Commons @ Ursinus College. It has been accepted for inclusion in World War I Era Documents, 1914-1918 by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Ursinus College. For more information, please contact [aprock@ursinus.edu](mailto:aprock@ursinus.edu).

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF EDUCATION

ADDRESS ONLY  
THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

WASHINGTON

March 15, 1918.

Mr. Huntington Wilson,  
Care of The Public Ledger,  
Independence Square,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Mr. Wilson:

Commissioner Claxton has handed me your letter of February 21 and the newspaper article, entitled "The War of the Unborn". Perhaps it is needless to say that I am profoundly interested in the problem that you *discuss* in this article. I am wondering if you have had any communication with Mr. H. H. Moore, Executive Secretary of the Committee for Civilian Cooperation in Combating Venereal Diseases of the National Council of Defense. I had a long talk with Mr. Moore a few days ago and I am sure that, if you have not gotten in touch with him, you will wish to do so.

Commissioner Claxton has mentioned in his letter the conference on health and physical education called by him in Atlantic City two weeks ago. The object of this conference was to formulate the principles, at least, of a national program for sound health and physical education in the public schools of the country. The meeting was attended by representatives of a large number of national organizations that either directly or indirectly are concerned with constructive health work. I shall be glad to send you, as soon as the copies are received from the mimeograph, a copy of the report of this conference. It is sufficient to say now that they adopted a statement of principles which in turn was endorsed in a blanket statement in the resolutions passed by the Department of Superintendence at its meeting in Atlantic City. Further, the conference resolved ~~itself~~ into a continuing body and directed the Commissioner to appoint a small committee to work out the details of a legislative program.



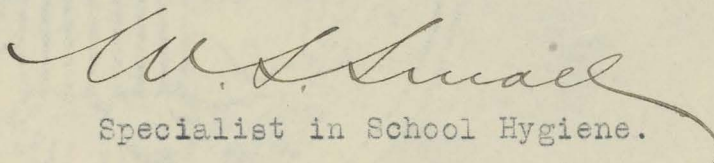
Mr. Huntington Wilson ... 2

March 15, 1918.

This conference did not deal specifically with the problem of eugenics or sex hygiene but I think there was not a person present who does not realize that education is a part of a great biological process and that in trying to formulate a program the purpose of which is to develop citizens who are physically fit for the duties of citizenship, both in peace and in war, there is something more involved than medical inspection and corrective work *and* physical education in the narrower sense. In fact it was clearly brought out in the conference that the health and vigor of women is even more important for the manhood of the race than the health and vigor of men.

I hope that you will be in Washington, as you suggest in your letter, at an early date and that I shall have the privilege of talking with you in regard to this matter. I have some fairly definite ideas in regard to the necessary educational readjustments that are to be made if we are to make genuine manhood and genuine womanhood the objects of education rather than stimulation and the training of the intellect only.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'W. S. Small', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Specialist in School Hygiene.