

## AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATIONS TO THE FEDERAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATOR IN ADDITION TO THOSE AUTHORIZED TO PROVIDE FOR MEETING EMERGENCY NEEDS FOR CRIPPLED CHILDREN

APRIL 7 (legislative day, MARCH 18), 1949.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. GEORGE, from the Committee on Finance, submitted the following

### REPORT

[To accompany H. J. Res. 212]

The Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the joint resolution (H. J. Res. 212) authorizing appropriations to the Federal Security Administrator in addition to those authorized under title V, part 2, of the Social Security Act, as amended, to provide for meeting emergency needs of crippled children during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1949, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the joint resolution do pass.

By virtue of this act, the Committee on Finance adopts the report of the Committee on Ways and Means which is as follows:

#### STATEMENT

The purpose of the joint resolution is to increase by \$1,500,000 the authorization for Federal appropriation for assistance to the States for the care of crippled children for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1949.

Part 2 of title V of the Social Security Act authorizes the Congress to appropriate \$7,500,000 each year for allotment to the States for services for crippled children. Of this amount \$3,750,000 must be matched dollar for dollar by the States. The amount allotted to each State, that must be matched by the State, is not fixed by law except that each State is allotted \$30,000 out of this amount and the balance is made available to the States by the Federal Security Administrator according to the need of each State after taking into consideration the number of crippled children in the State and the cost of furnishing services to them.

The balance of the appropriation, \$3,750,000, need not be matched with State funds. The Administrator allots this sum to the States according to the financial need of each State after taking into consideration the number of crippled children in the State and the cost of furnishing services to them.

The joint resolution authorizes the appropriation of \$1,500,000 for necessary services and care for crippled children in addition to the \$7,500,000 authorized under existing law. This additional authorization would terminate with the close of the current fiscal year ending June 30, 1949. Temporary supplementary assistance to the States to cope with the present emergency is necessary because

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of sharply increased cost of hospital care, and the increased number of crippled children seeking care under State crippled children's programs.

Although the Federal Security Agency recommended that the increased authorization of \$1,500,000 provide for allotment without requiring matching by the States, it is the view of the committee that there should be no departure from the method of allocation of funds to States under existing law. Accordingly, the additional authorization may be allocated for fiscal year 1949 as if the over-all authorized amount in section 511 of the Social Security Act were \$9,000,000 instead of \$7,500,000, and as if the allotments in sections 512 (a) and (b) were \$4,500,000 in each instance, instead of \$3,750,000.

The following letter from the Acting Federal Security Administrator sets forth more fully the emergency need for the enactment of the joint resolution:

FEDERAL SECURITY AGENCY,  
*Washington, March 23, 1949.*

The honorable the SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
*Washington 25, D. C.*

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Because of the urgent need for additional funds for the care of crippled children, I am enclosing for your consideration a legislative proposal (a joint resolution) to authorize appropriations in addition to those now authorized by title V, part 2, of the Social Security Act for grants to States for crippled children's services (exhibit 1). The amount which would be authorized by the enclosed proposal is \$1,500,000 for fiscal year 1949. These additional funds are for the purpose of enabling the States to provide medical and hospital care for crippled children who are not now able to receive such care because of lack of funds.

There were in December 1948, 31,400 crippled children in this country known to be in need of medical and hospital care but for whom care is not now available. These figures were reported to the Children's Bureau, which is the unit in the Federal Security Agency charged with responsibility for this program, by the State agencies responsible for the services to crippled children. They represent a 36-percent increase over the number of children on waiting lists reported in April 1948.

The requests from the States for additional funds demonstrate critical need throughout the country. The need for funds has become increasingly acute during the past year because of (1) the rapid increase in the cost of hospital care, and (2) such situations as the poliomyelitis epidemic this last summer and fall and the steady rise in the number of applications for the care of children with crippling conditions. Reports from the States indicate that the cost of hospital care has doubled in nearly all hospitals in the last 3 or 4 years.

Some States report that funds for hospital care are essentially exhausted and that even at this time no new cases can be admitted to hospitals unless there are additional funds. One State agency, for example, reports that it is accepting only emergency cases at this time, and another State can make no provision even for emergency cases. Similar conditions exist in almost every State in the country. These are current needs that should be met as far as possible during the fiscal year 1949.

It is estimated that the amount requested in the proposed legislation for 1949 would provide complete care for 1,250 children and partial care for 2,500 additional children now on the waiting lists.

Because of the urgency of the situation, the resolution calls for allotment of the additional funds, without requiring matching by the States, "according to the financial need of each State for assistance in carrying out its State plan" (sec. 512 (b) of the Social Security Act).

I hope that it will be possible for the Congress to take action as soon as possible on this joint resolution.

Sincerely yours,

J. DONALD KINGSLEY,  
*Acting Administrator.*

