

THE BILL WILKERSON HEARING AND SPEECH CENTER
NASHVILLE 4, TENNESSEE

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11/6/59, December 31, 1958

Congressman John E. Fogarty
House Office Building
Washington, D. C.

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Dear Congressman Fogarty:

Upon receiving a letter from you, the great humanitarian, stating that you would introduce a bill for the training of personnel in the hearing and speech field in the next Congress, I realized that the year of 1959 would be my finest. The fact that you will introduce the bill assures its passage. On behalf of the millions of persons handicapped with hearing and speech defects, I give you my sincerest thanks. Words are inadequate to express the great good that will be done for this nation.

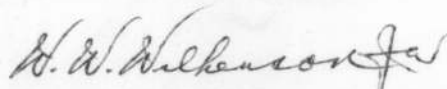
At the same time that I sent you the proposed bill, I requested the State Attorney-General's office to review the bill, and he rendered the following opinion: That he had erred in that the content of the last sentence in Section 2, beginning with the word, "However," would be unconstitutional, as it would be impossible to require a city, county or state to utilize all or any specific amount of funds for educational purposes. He stated that under such a provision, Tennessee, and he was sure many other states, would be unable to participate in this program. However, he further stated the well-known fact that it would be necessary for cities, counties, or states to appropriate funds in the amount decided by the State Legislatures, et cetera, for the matching of Federal funds under this program. Under Section 4, sub-heading E, he stated that you might wish to enlarge this program to include not only the Master of Science level, but also the Doctorate level. In these changes I concur.

It is recognized by those who know of your great work that you need no help in formulating such programs. I, too, realize this. However, because of my intense interest, I must offer you my services as you may see fit to use them. I shall be glad to come to Washington to be of any possible help in drawing such a bill and to discuss the matter publicly or privately with the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, Congressmen and Senators. I am further prepared to have this program discussed at grass roots levels with Congressmen and Senators by contacting the vast number of people interested in such a program in every state of the Union. I am further prepared to have an outstanding group of persons, whatever number you may designate, to appear before committees at public hearings. Am I correct in assuming that the bill will come before your committee in the House? I would also like to know the name of the committee dealing with such problems in the Senate.

You may rest assured that I realize my inadequacies in handling national legislation, and all of my suggestions or offers of help in obtaining passage of the Legislature may not be needed. I am, therefore, dependent upon you for guidance and instructions, and will do only that which you advise. Recognizing that the bill which you will introduce will be your handiwork and comes from your intense interest in humanity, I want your permission to tell people that you will introduce such legislation, but that I do not know exactly what the bill will contain.

I would appreciate your secretary forwarding to me copies of the legislation which you will introduce as soon as it is completed. As busy as you are, letters from your secretary answering these questions would be most acceptable.

Yours very faithfully,



W. W. Wilkerson, Jr. M. D.

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