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Rhode Island Leads Way in Vital Health Programs Says Fogarty Who Authored Laws—Second District Congressman Cites Rhode Island Neurological and Cancer Projects in Review of National Health Legislation in Congress

EXTENSION OF REMARKS
OF

HON. JOHN E. FOGARTY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, August 23, 1958

Mr. FOGARTY. Mr. Speaker, as the 85th Congress comes to a close I want to thank my colleagues for the fine support they gave to legislation affecting the health of the American people which I introduced during the past year.

Perhaps the most important bill I brought up this year was the annual appropriation for Health, Education, and Welfare. In this bill funds are provided for research and training and the construction of buildings in the various health fields the Federal Government supports by direct appropriations. During the 12 years that I have brought this bill to the Congress, as chairman of the Health Subcommittee on Appropriations or as the ranking minority member, you have responded well to the requests I have made for increases in funds.

This year you were particularly cooperative. In final form I brought before you a bill to increase the appropriations for the National Institutes of Health from \$211 million to \$294 million. You accepted my recommendations and as a result of that 40-percent increase, more research will be done in this coming year than ever before in cancer, mental health, heart disease, dental health, arthritis, and metabolic diseases, allergy and infectious diseases and neurology and blindness. I would like to remind you of the considerations which impelled

me to ask you for this great increase and of the hope it brings for finding a solution to the killing and crippling diseases of mankind.

BASIC RESEARCH DOUBLED IN 1 YEAR

The first item of the budget of the National Institutes of Health is general research. This is research in biology, chemistry, physiology, pharmacology, biochemistry, and other basic sciences we must know more about in order to progress in the field of cancer, heart disease, and the other categorical areas. Last year, for general research, the Congress appropriated \$14 million. I asked you to appropriate about \$29 million this year, which you did. That increase means that every categorical field in medicine will be assisted in its basic and fundamental understanding. This is the first year in which we have had a sizable increase in the appropriation for general research. I shall come before you again next year and report the avenues of approach that are newly opened in the categorical disease fields as a result of this appropriation. I am confident the report will be a rewarding one.

RHODE ISLAND BENEFITS FROM CANCER
APPROPRIATION

In cancer last year we appropriated \$56.4 million. This year I asked you to approve \$75.2 million which you did. Part of this increase will be used to step up the program of cytological testing of women for cancer of the uterus.

My own State of Rhode Island was one of the first in the Nation to establish a cancer detection center for cytologic testing of women as a part of this program. With the Public Health Service, the Rhode Island Medical Society and the Rhode Island Society of Pathologists, our State department of health is, for the third year, making the cytologic test available to all women over the age of 20 in the State. There are almost a quarter of a million women over the age bracket in Rhode Island who may receive the test through one of the State-sponsored cancer detection centers.

For the great majority it will mean peace of mind and relief from needless worry. For those who have cancer, it will mean discovery at a time when the disease can be treated effectively and fatal consequences forestalled. I am glad this service is possible in Rhode Island by means of the national cancer program and I intend to make sure that the funds are provided each year to make it and keep it the best in the Nation.

**MENTAL HEALTH, HEART, AND DENTAL STUDIES
ACCELERATED**

In mental health last year we appropriated \$39.2 million. This year you approved the \$52.4 million I requested on behalf of my subcommittee. With these increased funds there will be a step-up in studies on schizophrenia, alcoholism, and psychopharmacology. This last program contemplates the use of pharmaceutical preparations in mental health in a manner parallel to the one used in cancer. The cancer program is working with great success, and I expect the mental-health program to move forward the same way.

In the field of heart disease last year we appropriated \$35.9 million, and this year you approved the \$45.6 million I requested. The increase here will be devoted to three main fields: arteriosclerosis, strokes, and anticoagulants. Everybody of middle age in this country can appreciate the importance of research in this field. Even the younger people who see the effects of these illnesses in their families have a proper regard for their importance, and I am sure that progress in this field will be looked on with interest across the Nation.

In the field of dental health we appropriated \$6.4 million last year, and this year you approved the \$7.4 million I requested for our subcommittee. This increase will provide the means for more work on the study of heredity in dental defects and the mechanism of tooth decay as well as dental caries. The latter is particularly important in children and often foreshadows the health of their teeth for the rest of their lives.

ARTHRITIS, DIABETES, ULCERS GET NEW ASSAULT

In the area of arthritis and metabolic diseases the appropriation for last year was \$20.3 million, and this year you approved the \$31.2 million I recommended. That is a 50-percent increase in a field with a great many responsibilities which up to now have been given scant atten-

tion. My subcommittee has urged an intensification of research in rheumatoid arthritis and the development of drugs which would be more effective than cortisone. Also provided is a program for the development of a better oral agent for use in diabetes. We are looking forward to the time when a pill taken by mouth will solve the problem of diabetics and shots in the arm will no longer be necessary. Another program we have intensified is gastroenterology. This includes ulcers, an ailment affecting 10 percent of our entire population. It is my hope that by the intelligent application of these increased funds we can discover what causes ulcers and be able to prevent them.

CHILDREN'S DISEASES ATTACKED ON UNPRECEDENTED SCALE

In allergy and infectious diseases the appropriation for last year was \$17.4 million and this year you approved my request for \$24.071 million. A large part of the increase here is to be devoted to a study of cystic fibrosis, a disease of children which medical men think is a metabolic disease. Today antibiotics can stave off the pneumonia to which children with cystic fibrosis are particularly susceptible but until we know more about the disease and why it appears in some children and not in others, we must intensify our work and learn the processes and deficiencies that cause it to come about so that it may be prevented.

In neurology and blindness last year the appropriation was \$21.3 million. This year the appropriation is \$29.4 million. This increase is to go mainly to the study of infant deaths and malformations at birth some medical men think are a result of conditions affecting the mother before delivery of the child. Work on multiple sclerosis, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, and Parkinson's disease will also be intensified.

RHODE ISLAND'S PART IN NEUROLOGY

Rhode Island is playing a key role in the Nation's neurological program which I am very proud of. It is the home base of a collaborative investigation coordinated by the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness to study and evaluate the factors which bring on such diseases as cerebral palsy and mental retardation. There are 500,000 people in the United States who have cerebral palsy, traceable to brain damage

occurring in the year or so surrounding birth. And there are an estimated 4,500,000 Americans with mental retardation, about one-third of them children.

Brown University's Department of Biology and Psychology was one of the first professional groups to join in this important collaborative study. Today the Providence Lying-in Hospital, the Rhode Island Hospital, Miriam Hospital, Emma Pendleton Bradley Home, and the Meeting Street School are all cooperating with the university in this program.

Though this broad-scale attack on the crippling disorders of childhood may take 10 years or longer, its implications are considerable. It is among the most hopeful studies in the medical field that the Congress has been called upon to consider in my 18 years' service with that body.

RHODE ISLAND INSTITUTIONS AIDED BY CONSTRUCTION FUNDS

The Congress also appropriated \$30 million for the construction of research facilities in accordance with the request I made of you. This is the third year in which the Congress has appropriated funds in this amount and since it is a 50-50 matching basis on which the funds are appropriated, at the end of the current fiscal year we will have not \$90 million worth of new research construction in the United States, but \$180 million of it. That means more and better space in which more and better research can be done.

In Rhode Island two grants were made under this program, 1 to Brown University of \$22,555 and 1 to the Rhode Island Hospital of \$25,000. The research facilities construction program has been authorized to continue for 3 additional years and I trust that other institutions in Rhode Island will apply for grants and the State will be able to broaden and intensify its medical research activities. I shall certainly continue to see to it that funds are available for worthy institutions.

You also approved the request for an increase in the funds for construction of hospitals, diagnostic centers, rehabilitation facilities, and nursing homes. These programs, stimulated by contributions of the Federal Government, have created institutions through the whole country, including Rhode Island, which

never would have been built otherwise. I am sure that the people of this land thoroughly support your action.

TEACHING MENTALLY RETARDED

I also want to thank my colleagues for their understanding and support of other measures I proposed. One, calling for a conference on aging, has become law. Another, providing a million dollars a year for a 10-year period for training teachers to teach mentally retarded children, has also become law. There are about 1 million mentally retarded children of school age in the United States, and only about 15 percent of them are getting the schooling they need. This law will provide the teaching facilities and the specialized training to take up a great deal of the slack in the program. It will make it possible for large numbers of the mentally retarded to become respected citizens, making a contribution to the community, by providing them with expert care and education in their early development.

Another bill I introduced, to provide scholarships and loans for the training of students in the sciences, was not enacted itself, but a bill containing the same features, sponsored by Congressman ELLIOTT, a fellow Member of the House of Representatives, has now become law. Under the terms of this legislation, known as the National Defense Education Act, Rhode Island will receive a 4-year total of \$3,475,074. The funds will be for student loans, equipment, guidance and testing, and vocational education. The annual allotments are as follows: Fiscal year 1959, \$729,840; fiscal year 1960, \$375,384; fiscal year 1961, \$915,078; and fiscal year 1962, \$954,772.

PROBLEMS OF AGING TO BE STUDIED

I have said for a long time that we do not give enough attention and thought to our aging population. As people get older their problems change and they become acutely distressed because we fail to recognize them as a group with special needs. We cannot begin to find solutions for these needs until we have studied the nature of the problems, State by State, throughout the country. That is why I proposed in a bill to you that a White House conference be held, after the several States have had time to make a study of their own, so that we can pool the knowledge and experience of the different parts of the country, and, having

assessed the needs, then study and provide the solutions that are necessary. The bill is now law, and I am confident that as a result of the conference to be held by January of 1961 we will soon have a blueprint for the care and protection of the older people in our national community.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM FOR NEXT YEAR

I regret that the Congress did not enact the legislation I introduced for a 5-year program of matching grants for the construction of medical and dental school facilities. The House of Representatives held hearings on this legislation but did not pass it. The Senate did not get around to holding hearings. However, I have been assured that as a result of the testimony on the legislation and the discussions growing out of it, both the House and Senate will hold hearings early next year. I shall introduce legislation again at that time and I expect that it will be passed by both Houses and become law.

In the closing days of the session I introduced a bill to provide for the mobilization of the maximum international health and medical research resources. My colleague in the Senate, LISTER HILL, of Alabama, introduced the same bill. We both had in mind bringing the subject before the American

people so that next year we will be able to undertake its passage. The purpose of the legislation is to pool the medical research resources of the world so that there will be a full exchange of medical information and knowledge. I believe a program of this kind will have implications far greater than the intrinsic good that will grow out of its medical advances. It will bring the nations of the world into a medium of understanding and harmony that no other program has yet been able to accomplish. I shall introduce this legislation again next year for your most earnest consideration.

1958 GREATEST YEAR FOR HEALTH IN OUR HISTORY

This past year has been a banner year for legislation in health. I want to thank you for the fine support you have given to all the proposals I brought before you. I assure you that I shall follow these programs with careful consideration and come before you often to report on their development and to ask for the additional legislation necessary to accomplish their purposes.

I am convinced that there is no greater resource this country has than the health of its people and I know I can count on the cooperation of the House and Senate to preserve that resource as it has for the 18 years that I have been a Member of Congress.