

Waukesha, Wisconsin,  
Jan. 2, 1920.

Honorable Clifford E. Randall,  
House of Representatives,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I wish to invite your attention to the Crago Bill (HR10846) and to the amended Wadsworth Bill (S3383). These bills are almost identical. Both of them are intended to increase the pay of the officers in the Army, Navy, Public Health Service, Marine Corps and Coast Guard Service. The officers corps of the various services are threatened with depletion. In order to maintain the high order of efficiency in these various services the moderate increase provided in these bills should be allowed. This is especially true of the Medical Corps, the members of which can at any time resign their positions and make more money in private practice. At least this is what most of them say.

I am now in charge of the new Public Health Service Hospital at Waukesha, Wisconsin, which was opened last July for the treatment of Psychoneurosis (Shell Shock). The difficulty of securing the highly trained men necessary for this work has been brought home to me very forcibly. The officers we now have are all discontented and with one exception they have it in their mind to resign unless some increase in compensation is allowed.

Congress has provided hospital treatment for discharged soldiers, sailors and marines. These men will not receive the best treatment unless capable Medical Officers are employed to take care of them. It is, therefore, important that the salaries of the officers of the Public Health Service be attractive enough to maintain the present efficient corps, and offer inducements for other capable men to enter into it. The same applies to the medical corps of the other services. All of them should have a like increase in order that none are placed at a disadvantage in the efforts to secure capable young physicians. In view of the urgent necessity it is hoped that you will give favorable consideration to these bills.

Very truly yours,

Lawrence Kelb,

Passed Assistant Surgeon  
In Charge.