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4PM - Meeting with Senator Bellmon
Tuesday, June 10

Robert M. Gettings, Executive Director
703/920-0700



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* Talk w/ Cap

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

DOUGLAS J. BENNET, JR., STAFF DIRECTOR
JOHN T. MC EVOY, CHIEF COUNSEL

MEMO TO: Mr. James Cannon
FROM: Sen. Henry Bellmon
DATE: June 10, 1975

I would like to recommend to you that these intermediate care facilities for the mentally retarded be measured against current standards - 45 CFR 249.12 - with the states retaining the waiver authority to give them more flexibility, and permitting the life safety code to be applied, based upon the use of the building. This would give the states more freedom to develop a plan of action to meet their particular needs. In view of the pending legislation before the Congress, which affects standards for institutions caring for the mentally retarded, I urge that the regulations - 45 CFR 249.13 - to be effective March 18, 1977, be suspended and held in abeyance until such time as Congress has completed its deliberations.

Further, I would recommend that representatives from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, along with representatives such as Wilbur Schmidt, L. E. Rader, and their colleagues from other states, be a part of a task force to review this problem. Standards could be discussed and studied, and from this, more acceptable regulations could be developed to improve the quality of services to our mentally retarded. Many specialists in the field of mental retardation, if they could be present today, would state to you that the pouring of millions and millions of dollars into bricks and mortar, as required by 45 CFR 249.13, would not improve the quality of rehabilitation and training for the retarded individual sufficiently to justify the high investment.

In summary, I would urge you, on behalf of all of the states, to grant extensions of funding to those facilities that have been or will be denied continued federal financial participation until a more reasonable solution to the long-range goals, standards, accountability and accreditation can be found. I am advised by professionals in the field of mental retardation that, in their opinion, if these



federal funds are discontinued now, it would set back the meeting of standards and accreditation some fifteen to twenty years. Thus, in my opinion, it would move our progress in the field of mental retardation back to the 1950's rather than toward the 1980's.

HB:cs