

OCTOBER 13, 1976

## Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed H.R. 5546 -- Health Professions Educational Assistance Act of 1976 which extends and expands through fiscal year 1980, with major changes, authorities to provide financial support for the education and training of physicians, dentists, and other health professionals.

Institutional Support

The bulk of direct Federal funds for health professions schools has been awarded through two major grant programs -- capitation assistance, i.e., an amount for each student enrolled, and special project grant assistance. Both programs are continued by H.R. 5546.

Student Assistance

H.R. 5546 expands loan and scholarship programs for health professions students, including making scholarships available to all health professions students, not just medical, osteopathic and dental (MOD) students.

The bill creates a major new health professions student loan guarantee program and a student loan insurance fund for health professions students. The amounts that the Secretary of HEW can guarantee are \$500 million in 1978, \$510 million in 1979, and \$520 million in 1980.

	1976 Actual	(\$ in millions)	
		1977 <u>H. R. 5546</u>	1978 <u>H. R. 5546</u>
Construction	2	127	42
Capitation grants	101	163	220
Special projects	98	201	195
Student assistance	82	113	161
National Health Service Corps	15	34	47
Total	298	638	665

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