

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED, Inc.



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AFFILIATES: AFPH EDUCATIONAL FUND, INC., AFPH INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN ENGINEERING, INC.
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May, 1955

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To Presidents and Secretaries,
Central Labor Unions, and
Industrial Union Councils

Dear Sirs and Brothers:

Enclosed is copy of the AFPH 1955-56 Legislative Program, which we urge your Labor Body to set up a Committee, to study, and to report to the membership. This Program has been endorsed by AFL and CIO.

This Program is a \$500,000,000 Package Deal, and covers more ground on behalf of our 40,000,000 Handicapped, for their rehabilitation and employment, than any measure ever presented to Congress.

Labor's Representatives officially sat in on drafting, so this is LABOR'S OWN PROGRAM. We need the help of all Labor Organizations to carry on this nation-wide campaign.

FUNDS NEEDED NOW

1. We urge that your organization and its affiliates contribute as substantially, to AFPH, as may be possible.

RUN NEWS RELEASE

2. We ask that you run the enclosed News Release, explaining outlines of bill, in your official Organ.

BUY LEGISLATIVE PAMPHLETS

3. To facilitate understanding of the benefits Labor will derive from passage of this Bill, we suggest that you purchase, on enclosed form, (using return envelope) sufficient copies of this Legislative Pamphlet, to provide each of your affiliated Unions with a copy.

ORGANIZING CAMPAIGN

4. We urge that you assist us in organizing Lodges of Handicapped and their friends, to further cement the ties between Labor and all Handicapped.

As is shown in accompanying Charter Form, five persons are required to form a Lodge. Nonhandicapped may join as Associate Members, but, only Handicapped can serve as Elected Officers.

Doubtless, in your affiliated membership, there are those who are Handicapped, in greater or lesser degree, and this applies,



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also, to families of your members. Many of these would and should be interested in furthering the AFPH Program for Handicapped, and, it will be most helpful if you will make public announcement of this matter, so as to attract their attention.

If Labor helps organize local lodges of AFPH, then, AFPH will always have a strong Labor backbone, and its program and policies will be pro-Labor.

Also, such Lodges would be the means of enlisting many supporters for the program, not ordinarily connected with Labor, - for example, - parent-teachers' groups; doctors; educators; women; farm and stock-raising groups, - even scientists and other professional men and women.

We emphasize, - 1956 National Election is just around the corner. WE, AND LABOR, NEED AND MUST HAVE ALL POSSIBLE SUPPORT, TO ELECT LIBERAL CANDIDATES, TO INSURE ENACTMENT OF PUBLIC PROGRAMS IN THE INTEREST OF ALL WORKING PEOPLE.

We are certain that Leaders of Labor, especially Presidents George Meany, AFL, and Walter P. Reuther, CIO, strongly support this Organizing Campaign, as they well understand the need for Labor having Auxiliary Armies and Political Allies, WHEN THEY ARE NEEDED.

We deeply appreciate the support and interest of our Labor friends and allies, and, to the best of our ability, we reciprocate. For 15 years, on many public forums, I have told the Handicapped, - "IF AND WHEN YOU BECOME ABLE TO WORK, JOIN THE UNION OF YOUR TRADE, AND WORK WITH LABOR, because LABOR IS, AND HAS BEEN, THE BEST FRIEND OF THE HANDICAPPED!"

Please let us hear from you, and extending our best wishes to all Brothers and Sisters in Labor, I am

Fraternally,

PAUL A. STRACHAN

President