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Washington 1, D.C.

November 15, 1954

Mr. Paul A. Strachan, President
American Federation of the
Physically Handicapped, Inc.
1370 National Press Building
Washington 4, D. C.

Dear Paul:

Thank you for your letter of October 30, informing me of the AFPH National Membership Campaign and a conference that will be held in December on handicapped legislation. I share your interest in the real need of an adequate physically handicapped program, and wish to assure you of our continued cooperation and support to accomplish this objective.

In this connection, I am enclosing a copy of the Annual Report of the A. F. of L. Executive Council on the physically handicapped, including a resolution adopted by the 73rd Convention of the A. F. of L. held in Los Angeles, California, September 20-27, 1954.

You will note that the resolution calls upon all A. F. of L. constituent labor bodies to lend legislative support, and, if possible, to make substantial contributions, financially, to the AFPH. Copies of the resolution have been sent to the press, all members of the Executive Council, A. F. of L., and to all organizations and individuals interested.

In regard to the legislative conference in December, I am pleased to advise that Mr. Walter Mason, a member of the National Legislative Committee of the American Federation of Labor will represent the Federation at this meeting. May I suggest that you advise Mr. Mason of the time and place of this conference.

With best wishes for a successful membership campaign, I am

Sincerely yours,

President
American Federation of Labor

WJMja
Encl.

Copy of Resolution adopted by the 73rd Convention of the American Federation of Labor, held in Los Angeles, California, September 20-27, 1954 ---

(AMERICAN FEDERATION OF THE) PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

Whereas, The problems and needs of our 38,000,000 handicapped citizens, including the blind, partially sighted, deaf, hard of hearing, amputees, arthritics, cardiacs, cerebral palsied, diabetics, epileptics, victims of muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis, osteomyelitis, poliomyelitis, rheumatism, congenital defects and deformities and other injuries and diseases constitute one of our Nation's gravest problems, and

Whereas, Organized Labor initiated, and has consistently fought for programs to advance the welfare of all workers, and 34 years ago the American Federation of Labor was chiefly responsible for establishing the Federal-State Vocational Rehabilitation program, and

Whereas, The American Federation of the Physically Handicapped, an organization composed primarily of physically handicapped people, with national headquarters at 1370 National Press Building, Washington 4, D. C., for the past 14 years has spearheaded all activities beneficial to handicapped, and has had official endorsement of Organized Labor, and has many eminent leaders of labor amongst its National Officers, and

Whereas, Said Federation's program includes establishment of a Federal Agency for Handicapped, and other measures which have been approved by all labor groups, and

Whereas, the 83rd Congress, 2d Session, enacted a bill to expand the Federal-State Vocational Rehabilitation program, and the American Federation of the Physically Handicapped with close cooperation from its Labor allies, succeeded in amending this bill in major particulars, so that the entire program, roughly, will be expanded to more than three times its present scope, and

Whereas, To enable the American Federation of the Physically Handicapped to set up informational services, so that all Labor Organizations may know of benefits to their members, and to families of their members, as well as to carry on other phases of its overall program, will require approximately \$250,000 for its annual budget, and urgently needs immediate financial assistance, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the American Federation of Labor, in Convention assembled, Los Angeles, California, does hereby endorse the program of the American Federation of the Physically Handicapped, particularly its bills to establish a Federal Agency for Handicapped, Tax Exemptions for Handicapped and Those who Cannot Support Themselves, and such other measures as may develop, which are approved by official American Federation of Labor representatives ere introduction, and be it further

Resolved, That the Convention calls upon its constituent Labor bodies to lend legislative support, and, if possible, to make substantial contributions, financially, to AFPH; and that copies of this Resolution be sent to the press, all Members of the Executive Council, A. F. of L., and to all organizations and individuals at interest.

On motion of Committee Secretary Soderstrom, the recommendation of the Committee was unanimously adopted.