



# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED, Inc.

Chartered in Washington, D. C. • August 20, 1942

AFFILIATES: AFPH EDUCATIONAL FUND, AFPH INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN ENGINEERING

(Contributions to affiliates are tax-deductible)

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March 29, 1956

To Presidents and Secretaries of  
International Unions, State Federations,  
Central Bodies, State and Local Industrial  
Union Councils and Local Unions

Dear Sirs and Brothers:

Your attention is respectfully directed to copy of enclosed letter which has been sent to all Members of Congress.

In it we specifically outline the benefits of our FEDERAL AGENCY FOR HANDICAPPED bills (which all Labor has approved) and show why this Session of Congress, which has been extremely dilatory so far on all progressive legislation, should and must take action to pass these bills this session.

We respectfully request that all International and National Unions carry a story on this in their Official Organs and urge their affiliates to write to Members of Congress and especially those on the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare and the House Committee on Education and Labor and call upon them to get immediate action on these bills. A list of the committee members is on the reverse side of this letter for your convenience.

We request that since our budget for 1956-1957 calls for \$250,000 of which we asked Labor by Resolution, approved at the AFL and CIO New York City Conventions, to assist in raising \$150,000, that all Internationals, Nationals, State Federations, Central Bodies, State Industrial Union Councils, and Local Unions, make an early and substantial contribution to us to enable us to carry on this vitally important program for our 40,000,000 Handicapped, many of whom are Members of Unions, or members of families of Members of Unions.

Please let us hear from you.

Fraternally,

PAUL A. STRACHAN

President

Encl.

Authors and Sponsors: "NATIONAL EMPLOY THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED WEEK"—October 7-13, 1956

List of Senate and House Committee members on reverse side.



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Chr. Lister Hill (Ala.)  
James E. Murray (Mont.)  
Matthew M. Neely (W. Va.)  
Paul H. Douglas (Ill.)  
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John F. Kennedy (Mass.)  
Pat McNamara (Mich.)

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Irving M. Ives (N.Y.)  
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Phil M. Landrum (Ga.)  
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Stewart L. Udall (Ariz.)  
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Wint Smith (Kans.)  
Carroll D. Kearns (Pa.)  
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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED, INC.  
1370 National Press Building, Washington 4, D. C.

COPY OF LETTER DATED MARCH 28, 1956  
SENT TO ALL MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

SUBJECT: FEDERAL AGENCY FOR HANDICAPPED BILLS

We respectfully call to your attention the need and desirability of immediate enactment of the bills to establish a FEDERAL AGENCY FOR HANDICAPPED. These have been introduced, or co-sponsored by:

- S. 1951 - Senators Murray, Neely, Carlson, Flanders, Hill, Humphrey, Kefauver, (the late Senator Kilgore), Langer, Lehman, Magnuson, Morse, McNamara, Neuberger, Smathers, Sparkman, and
- HR 5465 - Rep. Charles E. Bennett; HR 5471 (the late John D. Dingell); HR 5487, Withrow; HR 5510, Mrs. Knutson; HR 5513, McCormack; HR 5571, George M. Rhodes; HR 5523, Tollefson; HR 5603, Augustine B. Kelley; HR 5705, (the late Rep. Vera Buchanan); HR 5737, Chudoff; HR 5859, Saylor; HR 5874, Bailey; HR 5939, Buckley; HR 5971, Rabaut; HR 6064, Madden; HR 6065, O'Hara; HR 6094, Donohue; HR 6098, Mrs. Griffiths; HR 6718, Doyle; HR 6960, Mrs. Kee; HR 7207, Diggs; HR 7465, Staggers.

The health, welfare and prosperity of all American citizens is certainly the "PEOPLE'S BUSINESS" and these bills have been pending long enough for Members of Congress who have, at heart, the well-being of our 40,000,000 Handicapped, of whom some 9,000,000 are from 60% to 100% disabled, opportunity for study and comprehension of the vast potentials for good that would ensue from passage thereof.

Instead of the miserably inadequate hodge-podge of so-called "Rehabilitation" we have today, the FEDERAL AGENCY FOR HANDICAPPED would establish a well-balanced, necessary program, which would include the following:

1. Provide for maximum extension of medical services; vocational guidance and counseling; education and training; and full employment opportunities to citizens handicapped by physical or mental disabilities.
2. Establishes an independent FEDERAL AGENCY FOR HANDICAPPED; abolishes the present inadequate Office for Vocational Rehabilitation, and transfers its functions, employees, etc., to the new Agency.
3. Sets up an Advisory Council on Affairs of the Handicapped in the Agency, consisting of three qualified persons to represent Industry; three, representing Labor; three, representing Farmers and Stock-Raisers;



three, who are themselves Physically Handicapped, to represent Physically Handicapped; three from the Arts and Sciences, and three from those experienced in Public Affairs.

4. Establishes in the Agency an Office of Services for Blind, to coordinate the present scrambled and far-flung set-up for Blind, in Federal Service.
5. Establishes Cooperative Enterprises for Handicapped, with a \$10,000,000 Revolving Fund.
6. Establishes Regional Rehabilitation Centers for Handicapped.
7. Provides Special Programs for Severely Handicapped, including establishment of Workshops.
8. Establishes a Federal Services to Handicapped Revolving Loan Fund, from which States may borrow money at such time as their own funds for vocational rehabilitation or employment of Handicapped, or for both, are exhausted, and appropriates an initial sum of \$10,000,000 for this Revolving Fund. (Note: It may surprise Members of Congress to know that approximately 50% of the time States are "broke", and have no money for service to Handicapped.)
9. Establishes a Division for Handicapped in the U. S. Civil Service Commission, to facilitate proper recruitment, examination, and appointment of qualified Handicapped.
10. Promotes Public Safety programs to eliminate and prevent conditions tending to promote injuries or disease, in public buildings, institutions, parks, and other public places.
11. Provides for reports from all Federal agencies which now receive, or may in future receive, as a part of their functions, reports relating to Handicapped persons.
12. Provides variable grants to States for Vocational Rehabilitation.
13. Provides grants to Handicapped who require special home-training.
14. Establishes a Federal Second Injury Tax and Fund, to facilitate favorable action enabling many of the more than 6,000,000 Handicapped who have more than one disability, and who are now debarred from employment in many States, an opportunity to earn their own living.
15. Establishes a Commission to Survey and Determine Proper Placement of Handicapped. Placement is the weak spot in today's Handicapped program and it is absolutely imperative that we accurately evaluate the capacities and abilities of Handicapped, so as to fit them into jobs they can satisfactorily fill, wherein their particular disability is not a factor.



Note: Primarily through AFPH's efforts, it has been shown these past 12 years, that some 9,000 of the 25,339 different jobs in the Occupational Directory, can be satisfactorily filled by the variously Handicapped. We must now complete the job survey, and the only way to do it is by establishing this Survey Commission for that specific purpose.

16. Provides interpreters for deaf and other physically handicapped who may be called as litigants or witnesses before Federal Courts, Departments or Agencies, or Congressional Committees.
17. Amends Interstate Commerce Act, so that common carriers may carry severely Handicapped who require attendants on trains, ships, planes, etc., under the same rules and regulations as now apply to the Blind.
18. Provides for grants to Home-Bound Handicapped.
19. Establishes a Federal Interagency Committee on Rehabilitation and Employment of Handicapped, with representatives thereon from each of the 35 Federal agencies now having a part of the program so that the overall program can be coordinated which has never been done before, and which present condition, no doubt, contributes to waste, inefficiency, and duplication of expense of taxpayers' money.
20. Establishes in the Department of Labor, in collaboration with States and other public and private agencies, Training Courses to develop specialists in Counseling and Placement of Handicapped to fill a great national need -- there now being only a mere handful of people throughout the Nation who have any practical experience or proven ability in placement of the millions of Handicapped.

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We call to your attention the fact that during the past 11 years there has been appropriated:

For Medical Research, National Health Institutes	\$555,449,489
For Hospital Survey and Construction - - - - -	914,500,000
	\$1,469,949,489

(The foregoing does not include all Federal expense for Medical Research and Hospital Construction, but, simply, the two items shown.)

For Vocational Rehabilitation - - - - -	\$229,373,200
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We fully approve expenditures for Medical Research and Hospital Construction, BUT, it seems clear from this record -- a ratio of six to one -- that Handicapped themselves who are the prime reasons for establishing such programs ARE NOT BEING PROVIDED WITH COMMENSURATE BENEFITS. In short, we care for the interests of those concerned with Medical Research, erection of facilities and the like, BUT WE HAVE NOT BROUGHT THE BENEFIT OF RESULTS OF THESE TWO PHASES OF THE PROGRAM DOWN TO THE VERY PEOPLE FOR WHOM THE PROGRAM WAS ESTABLISHED!



We assert that the Handicapped SHOULD HAVE PARITY, and equal amounts applied for needed services in medical treatment, education and training, counseling and guidance, and selective placement in work that is suitable.

This can only be accomplished under such a program as that provided in the FEDERAL AGENCY FOR HANDICAPPED bills, and that fact alone justifies your immediate concern and effort to get these bills into law as speedily as possible.

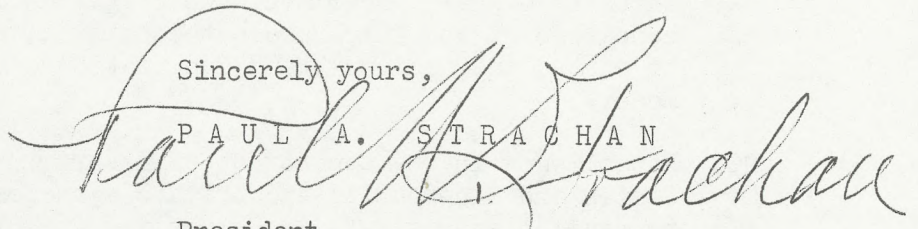
Our members, and other Handicapped and their friends, inquire: "WHEN WILL CONGRESS TAKE DEFINITE ACTION UPON THE 'FEDERAL AGENCY FOR HANDICAPPED' BILLS AND THUS PROVIDE MUCH NEEDED ASSISTANCE?"

Only you can answer that question and we will appreciate your advising us so we, in turn, can inform all interested persons of your desire to see justice and opportunity extended to our millions of Handicapped citizens.

We will appreciate your taking all possible steps to insure early hearings on these bills and, with best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

PAUL A. STRACHAN

A large, flowing handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul A. Strachan". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned over the typed name "PAUL A. STRACHAN".

President

American Federation of the Physically  
Handicapped, Inc.

1370 National Press Building, Washington DC