April 14, 1955

Hon. Lister Hill, Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor and H.E.W. Departments
Capitol
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator:

H.R. 5046, the Labor and Health, Education and Welfare Departments appropriations bill for fiscal 1956, which is pending before your Subcommittee, contains an item of great concern to me, as I know it is to you. I refer to the budget estimate of $2,350,000 for "training and traineeships" under the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation.

I was deeply disturbed at the reduction effected by the House of $550,000 from the budget estimate for "training and traineeships" and I have heard from one of the most eminent men in this health area, Dr. Howard A. Rusk, protesting this cut. I hope very much that your Subcommittee and the full Appropriations Committee will, in their action on H.R. 5046, restore the cut so that at least the full amount of $2,350,000 may be available in the next fiscal year.

As members of the Senate Subcommittee on Health last year when the amendments to the Vocational Rehabilitation Act were being considered, we were told time and again of the dire need for more trained professional personnel in the vital field of vocational rehabilitation. The number of physically handicapped who require the care of trained personnel is staggering. Obviously, there is an overriding need for qualified persons in this field. Federal funds must be adequate to train them.

With kindest personal regards.

Yours very sincerely,