December 28, 1954

Honorable Herbert H. Lehman
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator:

Since the end of World War II there has been an alarming increase in traffic in narcotic drugs. The increased use of narcotics by minors has been particularly disturbing since it is closely related to the increase in juvenile delinquency.

It is felt that the time has come for a comprehensive legislative attack on this national social problem to strengthen the hands of the appropriate federal and state officials with responsibility in this field. Organizations such as the United States Junior Chamber of Commerce have interested themselves in the need for new legislation. During the 83rd Congress various bills were introduced dealing with different phases of the narcotic problem.

This fall I have prepared an omnibus bill incorporating many of these previous proposals and some new material which I shall introduce at the beginning of the 84th Congress. This omnibus bill is a comprehensive measure covering the organization and powers of the Bureau of Narcotics and its personnel, providing increased penalties for regular narcotic violations with even stiffer penalties for sales to minors, authorizing expansion of treatment and rehabilitation facilities and programs, and perhaps most important of all authorizing establishment of educational and research activities in the field of narcotic addiction.

I am enclosing a copy of the bill I plan to introduce and a copy of an explanatory memorandum. If you should care to join me as a co-sponsor of this bill, I shall be honored to have you do so and would appreciate it if you would have a member of your staff notify my office before January 7, 1955.

With very best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

Frederick G. Payne, U. S. S.