

*Original copy  
of this letter also  
sent to Senator Edward  
Long & Stuart Symington*

March 8, 1965

The Honorable Senator Lister Hill  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C,

Dear Senator Hill:

I am writing to recommend your support of Bill S.597, to ammend the Public Health Service Act to provide additional funds for medical library services and facilities.

During the past 2 1/2 years, with the support of Governor John Dalton, and now, Governor Warren Hearnes, the Division of Mental Diseases of the State of Missouri has established a research and training center in St. Louis. This center is dedicated to studying the problems of the severe mentally ill, and in the training of psychiatrists for public service. We have been able to develop our facilities with the support of the legislature of Missouri, the public through their direct contributions, and the Public Health Service which has made available to us funds under the Health Facilities Act for the completion of our laboratory.

During this growth period, we have not been able to obtain the funds necessary to establish library facilities adequate to the needs of our scientists. While we have made a pilot effort to provide an information retrieval system in our computer center, to enlarge our library so that it now has 5,000 volumes, to expand our journal subscription lists so that we make available to our scientists and students 180 journals in psychiatry, the services are still inadequate.

There is great need for the expansion of library facilities, both at this center and in the other medical centers in the midwest. We are establishing a documentation center for the behavioral sciences, and this center will seek support not only from the legislature of Missouri, but as it will be a regional facility, from the Federal Government as well.

Realizing the needs for research in the health disciplines, the Congress during the past two decades has expanded funds for research and training so that many worthwhile programs have been launched and are now producing data and training personnel so that the health care of the American public is among the best in the world. However, such specialized facilities as libraries have not received the support they need. Senate Bill S.597 will do much to correct this need. My associates in these laboratories join me in commending your favorable review of this bill.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.  
Head, Division of Research  
Professor of Psychiatry

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