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TWIN CITIES

Card Copies - Durenberger

Laboratory of Physiological Hygiene
School of Public Health
Stadium Gate 27
611 Beacon Street S.E.
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

RE: Enclosed Article on
U.S.D.A. Policy

June 11, 1982

Senator Dave Durenberger
353 Russell Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Durenberger:

The peer review process for research in the most elemental and constitutional sense in a free land cannot be "to appoint people who share our political views." This should be inconceivable in our land. Since it isn't, I would very much appreciate your dropping me a note whether you think you can help separate "philosophical compatibility" from scientific objectivity. The NIH and NSF may be next.

Sincerely,

Henry Blackburn, M.D.
Professor and Director

/jml

Enclosure *✓ 6/11/82*

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

ROBERT E. LIGHTHIZER, CHIEF COUNSEL
MICHAEL STERN, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

August 10, 1982

Henry Blackburn, M.D.
Professor and Director
University of Minnesota
Laboratory of Physiological Hygiene
School of Public Health
Stadium Gate 27
611 Beacon Street S.E.
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

Congress - Arrangements?

Dear Henry:

Thanks for your thoughtfulness in sharing with me a copy of the article describing the USDA's policy to hiring only those scientists that share their political views. Obviously, this policy deserves attention and action.

I contacted officials at the Agriculture Department and asked them about this situation. They've assured me that the policy was discontinued a couple of months ago -- shortly after it went into effect. They described it as a case of the right hand not knowing what the left hand was doing.

I appreciate your taking the time to write, Henry. Please accept my apologies for the late response. I hope you'll continue to stay in touch.

Sincerely,


Dave Durenberger
United States Senator

DD:jtn

Congressman Weber 108498

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

ROBERT E. LIGHTHIZER, CHIEF COUNSEL
MICHAEL STERN, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

March 29, 1982

Henry Blackburn, M.D.
Professor and Director
Laboratory of Physiological
Hygiene, School of Public Health
Stadium Gate 27
University of Minnesota
611 Beacon Street SE
Minneapolis, MN 55455

Congressman Weber

Dear Henry:

Thanks for forwarding to me the copy of your letter to Congressman Weber expressing your concerns regarding the Small Business Innovation Development Act of 1981.

As you know, this legislation has not yet passed in the House, however, similar legislation, S. 881, has passed in the Senate. The bill was passed by a vote of 90 to 0 and I'd like to share some of my thoughts on it with you.

I did vote to provide one percent of agencies' research and development budgets to go toward funding small businesses' research and development projects. At a time when our nation's small businesses are in deep economic trouble, yet create 90% of all new jobs, I felt that this was a fair compromise between academic institutions and small businesses. Also adopted was an amendment to the bill which imposes a cap on the amount that can be taken from basic research funds, as well as an amendment providing an additional safeguard by directing the General Accounting Office to report to the Congress within two years after enactment of the bill concerning the effect of the use of basic research funds on agencies' overall basic research programs. If the GAO findings indicate that basic research is being adversely affected pursuant to the funding requirement of S. 881, the Congress can take steps to remedy the situation.

Again, Henry, thanks for sharing your concerns with me. Please be assured that if H.R. 4326 is passed by the House and referred to the Senate, I will keep your comments in mind. I hope you'll continue to stay in touch.

Sincerely,

Dave Durenberger
United States Senator

DD:slh

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

ROBERT E. LIGHTHIZER, CHIEF COUNSEL
MICHAEL STERN, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

March 17, 1982

Henry Blackburn, M.D.
Professor and Director
University of Minnesota
Laboratory of Physiological Hygiene
School of Public Health
Stadium Gate 27
611 Beacon Street S.E.
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

Congress concern.

Dear Henry:

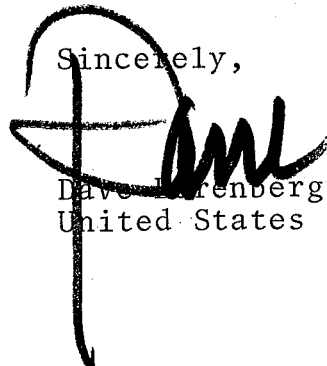
Every day it becomes a little more evident that the public is becoming increasingly aware of the impact of lifestyle on health. The campaign against smoking is picking up steam, all levels of government are stiffening penalties for drunk driving, and we even have a cover story on salt intake! It's about time people recognized that there are factors that have a greater impact on health than does disease treatment.

It makes no sense for us to continue dumping incredible amounts of money into disease treatment when prevention, jobs, housing, education, and a stable family environment have as much -- if not more -- to do with health than does treating disease.

I have a strong commitment to both reimbursement reform in health care and the provision of a stable reimbursement reform in health care and the provision of a stable research and training funding base. We cannot expect to maintain our leadership position in health if funding for research is being turned on and off depending on the political tide.

Thanks for your letter, and best of luck in your ongoing research.

Sincerely,



Dave Durenberger
United States Senator

DD:jtn



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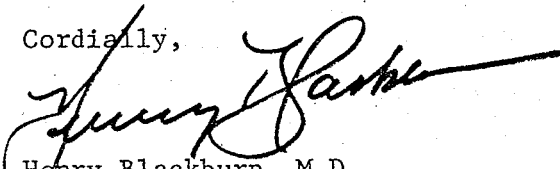
February 2, 1982

Senator David Durenberger
353 Russell Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Durenberger:

I found your 1981 Report to Minnesota most useful in its good summary of issues and its explanation for your positions on them. In your important position on the Health Subcommittee, I am impressed that the thinking is largely oriented to advanced medical care services rather than health care, and with services rather than research, training and development. I think it would be useful to keep your constituency informed about the importance to progress and to our competitive position of maintaining a strong research and development commitment in this administration.

Cordially,



Henry Blackburn, M.D.
Professor and Director

HB/jml