



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
TWIN CITIES

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January 27, 1982

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Dear Walter:

I enjoyed your Journal of Public Health Opinion editorial on the organization of funding for researches in public health. It addresses the issues well and suggests solutions. We had a debate in this country a few years ago about creation of a National Institute of Public Health in which the peer review system would be competent in public health approaches and resources "guaranteed." We backed off from encouraging our legislators in this based on the rapid improvement that Robert Levy provided in the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute's peer review and allocations to public health researches and based on some early progress for a while in the National Cancer Institute. However, we may be back to ground zero with the new appointments at NIH and it may be time, again, to think of an institute which understands the breadth and scope and duration of the needed researches, etc.

You may have heard of our great opportunity here to put together an integrated community strategy for chronic disease prevention. It is a nine-year program called the Minnesota Heart Health Program, but, of course, was only funded for five years. We think it reasonable that we have to demonstrate accomplishment in four years to have a successful renewal, and are hard at it. It is our version of the Karelia and Stanford studies which has, we think, a balanced approach of well-tested systematic direct educational approaches combined with youth programs, community leadership training and organization, and a mass media campaign. It contrasts with the new Stanford 5 Cities Study which maintains its media campaign emphasis and a Rhode Island study which emphasizes entirely community organization. At any rate, it's a fine chance, and we think that both our educational program and evaluation have strong aspects which should produce useful information.

Again, many thanks for your thoughtful editorial. I hope it gets into some appropriate hands, and I'll do my little part to see that it does. We enjoyed having Lester Breslow here recently as our first Gaylord Anderson lecturer to talk on some of these issues.