

LES AUCOIN
1st DISTRICT, OREGON



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

June 25, 1979

Dear Colleague:

State and local governments of all sizes are straining under the burden of excessive and duplicative red tape imposed on them by the Federal government. This burden lowers productivity and wastes scarce federal and local taxpayer dollars.

We introduced legislation June 18 that will put us on the road to efficient and productive administration of federal assistance programs. Entitled the Federal Assistance Paperwork and Regulation Reduction Act, this bill initiates a variety of new procedures to streamline and simplify federal grant programs.

The bill provides for greater uniformity of program requirements that must be fulfilled by grant recipients. Across-the-board requirements such as citizen participation, equal opportunity, planning and environmental quality would be standardized so that a recipient would not be asked to comply with different regulations for each administering agency.

The bill also establishes a process by which recipient governments may certify they are in compliance with state and local requirements that are at least equivalent to the standard rules and regulations. Once certified, a state or local government would be exempt from the paperwork and red tape required by the federal government. The certification in no way would allow state or local governmental units to escape their responsibility to fulfill the requirements of law. It would merely cut the red tape and paperwork.

Another major objective of the bill is to encourage and expedite the consolidation of many categorical programs. The bill establishes a procedure for considering consolidation proposals submitted by the President. Congress would consider each consolidation plan in a manner similar to the procedure used to consider reorganization plans.

Finally, the bill revises the Joint Funding Simplification Act. The changes would enable state, local and non-profit groups to use federal assistance more effectively by administratively packaging federal assistance programs. The revised procedures would allow assistance recipients to deal with one agency and one set of rules rather than a maze of bureaucracies and red tape.

Our bill, HR 4504, was introduced on June 18; an accompanying statement appears on page H4693-94 of the June 18 Congressional Record. The bill has been jointly referred to the Committees on Government Operations and Rules. Similar legislation, S. 878, was introduced in the Senate by Senator Roth on April 4.

If you would like to co-sponsor HR 4504, please contact Jan or David at X50855.

With warm regards,

Sincerely,


LES AuCOIN
Member of Congress


Lee Hamilton
Members of Congress


Clarence Brown
Member of Congress


Tom Corcoran
Member of Congress