

COMMITTEES:
JUDICIARY
BANKING, FINANCE AND
URBAN AFFAIRS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

July 13, 1981

Hon. John E. Porter
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear John:

I have never asked you for a "personal favor", but I am now!

Discharge Petition # 5 is on behalf of H.R. 3154, which seeks to eliminate the discriminatory age limit for membership in the Public Health Service.

The Reagan Administration seeks to appoint Dr. C. Everett Koop as Surgeon General, but since he just attained his 64th birthday, under present law he cannot be appointed to the P.H.S., and this is an essential pre-condition to eligibility for Surgeon General.

Now everyone is against anachronistic age limitations -- but the real opposition to Dr. Koop arises from the fact that he is "pro-life".

An abbreviated version of his biography is enclosed. A casual reading will convince you that he is one of the great medical achievers of our time, and the fact that his view on the issue of abortion is the same as President Reagan's and Secretary Schweiker's should not disqualify him.

I know many Members say "I don't sign discharge petitions" -- but once in a while a matter of principle ought to outweigh a matter of procedure. This, surely, is such a time.

As of today we have about 160 signatures.

Will you help? Please? Today?

Many thanks,

Cordially,



Henry J. Hyde

HJH:thp
Enclosure