

EXHIBIT C

A RESPONSE TO THE HEALTH EDUCATION AFFAIRS REPORT  
BY  
DR. HARRISON L. PEEPLES  
TO  
THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

AUGUST 2, 1973

With your permission I would like to make a statement as to the position of the Medical University with regard to a second medical school. We are a principal in this on-going discussion and I feel that our position should be a part of a public document so that there will not be any misunderstanding later what our position really is. I would request that this statement be made part of the Minutes of this meeting today. I apologize to members of the Commission on Higher Education because much of what I have to say has been mailed to you in previous documents.

As you know, the Medical University has doubled its class size in the past four or five years from 80 to 165 students. We are rapidly implementing the recommendations of the Carnegie Commission report. We have area health education centers, consortium complexes in progress in Columbia, Spartanburg, Greenville, and contemplating expansion to Florence. The State has recently appropriated money to expand family practice in four other smaller areas of the State, possibly Orangeburg, Sumter, Greenville and Anderson. We have affiliated in the five year medical education program ten colleges in the State. We have helped expand the residency programs throughout the State, and all agree that the quickest and best way to get more physicians is to have residents training positions which are adequate and of high quality. In doing this the retention rate of our students can be increased above the present 60 percent. With an increased economic position of the State, we are now in the position to encourage in-migration of physicians. So it is the position of the Medical University that the medical education needs are now being met in the State. This is explained more fully in detail in the document, "South Carolina Health Education System", published by the Board of Trustees of the Medical University.

In the event that it becomes evident that more first year medical students are needed, we are prepared to implement more portions of the Indiana Plan; that is, first year students could attend schools such as Clemson and the University of South Carolina, the next two years could be taken at the Medical University, and the fourth year at area health education consortium hospitals, which are spread out over the State. This utilizes all existing qualified institutions in the State who wish to participate in health education. As I have stated before, the only limitations would be in our imaginations to expand these programs, monies, and the accrediting bodies, so it is our feeling that a

second medical school is not needed.

It, then, is our opinion that one institution, the Medical University of South Carolina, should be responsible for health and medical education under the aegis of a central coordinating body, the Commission on Higher Education. In those areas that the Medical University of South Carolina is not directly involved, we feel the Commission on Higher Education should utilize the expertise available at the Medical University in Charleston in assuring state-wide quality control of all programs so related.

This, basically, is our position, and then I would like to make comment on this report.

I think being practical minded I must realize that a simple "yes" or "no" decision made here would not really settle the question of a second medical school, and I think all who are involved in it would like to have it settled. I would commend the Committee on giving attention to the many interests and many diverse opinions involved in this discussion. I am sure it took diligent work and long hours to come to this conclusion. To me, this report is a responsible one. I think it is responsible to the tax-payers because it attempts to save monies by committing from sources other than State funds as a requirement for 100 percent capital money and 52 percent of the operating money for a ten year period of a second medical school. I think it is responsible to the University of South Carolina because within certain limitations it permits the University of South Carolina to apply for VA Federal funds. This would give the University of South Carolina an opportunity to prove to the general public that the large amount of money that is often spoken of in the press is truly available. This would do much to clear the confusion that may be in the minds of the public as to the ultimate State and ultimate Federal money cost involved in a second medical school. I think it is responsible to the Medical University of South Carolina in that there is an effort toward coordination and prevention of unnecessary duplication of programs. It attempts to prevent competition between two State institutions, which always results in increased costs. Finally and foremost, I think it is responsible to the people of the State. It recognizes and recommends that the final decision as to whether there will be a second medical school or not must have the approval of the State Legislature. This is where the need of a second medical school and the State's ability to assume the cost thereof, and reflect as to how it would affect other programs in the State, will ultimately be decided. The elected representatives of the people will be the court of last resort. In this document there was reference to a Health Education Authority and I would like to just make a comment about it. Basically, we feel that if a Health Education Authority were established that it would duplicate authority already in the Higher Education Commission. We feel that health education should be under the same coordinating body as any other educational institution in the State, and it should be under the Higher Education Commission without an intermediary.

Having said these things, I have to say that the consensus of the members of the Board of Trustees have urged upon me not to support a

resolution or a statement that would encourage a second medical school in this State unless the needs for a second school have been amply demonstrated. To me this demonstration has not been done. Therefore, I shall abstain from voting on this report, and I would say to you that I will present this to our Board at our very next meeting in light of what I have said here and in light of the statements made by the Chairman of the Health Committee and the Chairman of the Commission in presenting this report.

I thank you.