

**The original documents are located in Box 24, “2/25/76 - Recorded Remarks Upon Asking Congress to Enact the Financial Assistance for Health Care Act” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

TALKING POINTS:

TELEVISION MESSAGE ON HEALTH BLOCK GRANTS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1976

TODAY, I AM ASKING THE CONGRESS TO ENACT

THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR HEALTH CARE ACT WHICH WILL

CONSOLIDATE MEDICAID AND 15 CATEGORICAL FEDERAL HEALTH

PROGRAMS INTO A TEN BILLION DOLLAR BLOCK GRANT TO THE STATES.

I AM PROPOSING THAT FUTURE FEDERAL FUNDING FOR THIS NEW

PROGRAM BE INCREASED IN INCREMENTS OF 500 MILLION DOLLARS

ANNUALLY.

MY PROPOSAL IS DESIGNED TO DISTRIBUTE

FEDERAL HEALTH DOLLARS MORE EQUITABLY AND TO INCREASE

STATE CONTROL OVER HEALTH SPENDING. MY PROPOSAL

ALSO RECOGNIZES WHAT I CONSIDER TO BE A MORE APPROPRIATE

FEDERAL ROLE IN PROVIDING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO STATE

AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY AND DISTRIBUTION

OF HEALTH SERVICES.

LET ME EMPHASIZE THAT NO STATE WILL RECEIVE

LESS FEDERAL MONEY IN THE FUTURE UNDER MY BLOCK GRANT

PROPOSAL THAN IT RECEIVED IN FISCAL YEAR 1976 UNDER THE

PROGRAMS BEING CONSOLIDATED.

MY CONSOLIDATION PROPOSAL WILL ALLOW THE STATES

GREATER FLEXIBILITY IN PROVIDING FOR THE DELIVERY

OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES TO THOSE WITH LOW INCOME•

IT ELIMINATES THE REQUIREMENTS FOR STATE MATCHING FUNDS•

MY PROPOSAL IS DESIGNED TO REDUCE FEDERAL  
RED TAPE, INCREASE LOCAL CONTROL OVER HEALTH SPENDING,  
AND EXPAND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN HEALTH PLANNING.

IT IS ESSENTIAL TO CONTINUING OUR NATIONAL PROGRESS

IN THE FIELD OF HEALTH. I URGE THE CONGRESS TO MOVE

SWIFTLY AND POSITIVELY ON THIS LEGISLATION.

END OF TEXT