

**The original documents are located in Box 38, “9/7/76 - Remarks Upon Signing H.R. 12455: Day Care Bill” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN . . .

SIGNING OF DAY CARE BILL

SEPTEMBER 7, 1976

ENSURING ADEQUATE DAY CARE FOR CHILDREN IS AN  
IMPORTANT SOCIAL SERVICE. IT PROTECTS THE WELL-BEING  
OF THOUSANDS OF AMERICAN CHILDREN AND THE ECONOMIC  
INDEPENDENCE OF THEIR WORKING PARENTS.

EARLIER THIS YEAR I VETOED A BILL ON CHILD DAY CARE  
NOT BECAUSE I DISAGREED WITH ITS GOALS BUT BECAUSE  
THAT BILL WAS THE WRONG MEANS TO A WORTHWHILE END.

TODAY I <sup>sign</sup> ~~HAVE SIGNED~~ A NEW AND BETTER CHILD DAY-CARE  
BILL -- THE RESULT OF ~~COMPROMISE AND~~ COOPERATION BETWEEN  
THE CONGRESS AND MY ADMINISTRATION.

THIS NEW AND BETTER BILL EMBODIES A MAJOR COMPROMISE  
ON A KEY ISSUE WHICH LED TO MY ORIGINAL VETO.

STATES AND LOCALITIES WILL BE SPARED THE HEAVY BURDEN  
OF COSTLY AND CONTROVERSIAL FEDERAL STANDARDS FOR  
CHILD DAY-CARE SERVICES.

IN A DIFFERENT AREA OF SOCIAL SERVICE, <sup>2m</sup> ~~AM~~ HAPPY

TO SEE THIS BILL ALSO ADOPTS A CONCEPT SUPPORTED BY

MANY OLDER AMERICANS AND CONTAINED IN MY FEDERAL

ASSISTANCE FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES PROPOSAL. UNDER THIS

BILL, OLDER PERSONS AND FAMILIES WHO OBVIOUSLY QUALIFY

FOR FEDERALLY ASSISTED SOCIAL SERVICES WILL BE ABLE TO GET

THOSE SERVICES -- WITHOUT A DEMEANING SCRUTINY OF THEIR

PERSONAL AFFAIRS.

I ~~STILL HAVE SOME RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE BILL~~

I AM SIGNING TODAY. *This* BUT ~~IT~~ IS A BETTER BILL THAN THE

ONE WHICH FIRST CROSSED MY DESK. *It's* ~~IT IS~~ A BETTER BILL

BECAUSE MY VETO EXERTED A BALANCING INFLUENCE ON THE

CONGRESS. WITHOUT THIS CONSTITUTIONAL CHECK AND

BALANCE, THE ORIGINAL BILL MIGHT NOW BE LAW AND MAKING

DAY CARE SERVICES MORE COSTLY TO THE TAXPAYER - AND

INCREASING THE FEDERAL INTRUSION IN FAMILY LIFE.

THROUGHOUT MY ADMINISTRATION, THE CONSTITUTIONAL  
*has been by me & my predecessors*  
VETO POWER HAS BEEN USED WITH ~~ONE~~ ONE CONCERN IN MIND \--

TO PROTECT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE FROM UNREALISTIC RESPONSES

TO THEIR VERY REAL NEEDS - \ TO SEE THAT THE FEDERAL

GOVERNMENT DOES NOT MERELY SERVE THE PEOPLE, BUT SERVES

THEM WELL.

END OF TEXT

replaced

STATES AND LOCALITIES WILL BE SPARED THE HEAVY BURDEN  
OF COSTLY AND CONTROVERSIAL FEDERAL STANDARDS FOR  
CHILD DAY-CARE SERVICES.

IN A DIFFERENT AREA OF SOCIAL SERVICE, I AM HAPPY  
TO SEE THIS BILL ALSO ADOPTS A CONCEPT SUPPORTED BY  
MANY OLDER AMERICANS AND CONTAINED IN MY FINANCIAL  
ASSISTANCE FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES PROPOSAL. UNDER THIS  
BILL, OLDER PERSONS AND FAMILIES WHO OBVIOUSLY QUALIFY  
FOR FEDERALLY ASSISTED SOCIAL SERVICES WILL BE ABLE TO GET  
THOSE SERVICES - WITHOUT A DEMEANING SCRUTINY OF THEIR  
PERSONAL AFFAIRS.