

OCTOBER 6, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary  
-----NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed H.R. 4005 -- Developmental Disabilities Amendments of 1975 -- which will extend through fiscal year 1978 the appropriation authorizations under the Developmental Services and Facilities Construction Act; revise the Act in various respects, including provision of new authority for special project grants, authorization of support for renovation and modernization of university-affiliated facilities and establishment of satellite centers, and provisions to establish and protect the rights of the developmentally disabled.

The Developmental Disabilities (DD) program began as a program for the severely mentally retarded with the passage in 1963 of the Mental Retardation Facilities and Community Mental Health Centers Construction Act of 1963. That Act authorized grants for (1) construction and initial staffing of community mental retardation facilities based on a State plan and (2) construction of university-affiliated facilities (UAF's) for training personnel and developing service programs for the developmentally disabled.

The bill will include:

- authorize appropriations through fiscal year 1977 at the 1976 budget level,
- add "autism" to the definition of DD,
- provide a special project grant authority to supercede the present authority in the Public Health Service Act and the Rehabilitation Act for DD projects, with a 30% set-aside for projects of national significance,
- reduce the Federal matching share of State and UAF grants from 70% in fiscal year 1975 to 50% in fiscal year 1977,
- eliminate construction grants to UAF's, and
- provide for a comprehensive evaluation of DD services.

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