

MARCH 16, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed H. R. 11045--Rehabilitation Act Extension of 1976. This bill extends for fiscal year 1977 appropriation authorizations for the vocational rehabilitation program; provides appropriation authorizations for fiscal year 1978 for the program unless other legislation for that purpose becomes law before April 15, 1977.

The vocational rehabilitation programs authorized by the Rehabilitation Act help prepare physically and mentally handicapped persons for gainful employment. By far the largest single authorization is for formula grants to States at an 80 %/20 % Federal-State matching rate. Under the Act, these grants constitute an entitlement to the States, and the full authorization must be allocated if the States have adequate matching funds. Authority is also provided to support various categorical activities related to the rehabilitation of the handicapped--research, training, special projects, innovation and expansion grants, construction, and others.

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