

The original documents are located in Box C32, folder “Presidential Handwriting 11/29/1975” of the Presidential Handwriting File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 29, 1975

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JIM CANNON

FROM:

JIM CONNOR *JEC*

SUBJECT:

Enrolled Bill S. 6 - Education for All
Handicapped Children Act of 1975

This morning the President signed the above mentioned bill and returned it in his outbox with the following notation:

"A real toughie. I signed but think the signing statement can be strengthened -- no increase until 1978 and in meantime we must reduce later authorizations, etc. -- Check with Paul O'Neill."

Please follow-up with appropriate action.

cc: Dick Cheney
Paul O'Neill
Robert Linder - with signed bill.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Jim Cannon

A real toughie.
I signed but think the
signing statement can be
strengthened - no increase till
1978 & in meantime we must
reduce later authorizations etc.
Check with Paul O'Neill.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 29, 1975

SEND TO DICK CHENEY
ABOARD AIR FORCE I

*Approved
Jim Cavanaugh*

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: DICK CHENEY

FROM: JIM CAVANAUGH 

We received your note on the changes you wanted made in the signing statement on the Education for Handicapped Children Act of 1975. Paul O'Neill and I have effected the changes you requested and the following proposed statement by the President has been cleared by Paul Theis.

*12/2 approval received
via Dick Cheney.*

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I have ~~today~~ approved S. 6, the "Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975."

Unfortunately, this bill promises more than the Federal Government can deliver and its good intentions could be thwarted by the many unwise provisions it contains. Everyone can agree with the objective stated in the title of this bill--educating all handicapped children in our nation. The key question is whether the bill will really accomplish that objective.

Even the strongest supporters of this measure know as well as I that they are falsely raising the expectations of the groups affected by claiming authorization levels which are excessive and unrealistic.

Despite my strong support for full educational opportunities for our handicapped children, the funding levels proposed in this bill will simply not be possible if Federal expenditures are to be brought under control and a balanced budget achieved over the next few years.

There are other features in the bill which I believe to be objectionable, and which should be changed. It contains a vast array of detailed, complex and costly administrative requirements which would unnecessarily assert Federal control over traditional State and local Government functions. It establishes complex requirements under which tax dollars would be used to support administrative paperwork and not educational programs. Unfortunately, these requirements will remain in effect even though the Congress appropriates far less than the amounts contemplated in S. 6.

Fortunately, since the provisions of this bill will not become fully effective until fiscal year 1978, there is time to revise the legislation and come up with a program that is effective and realistic. I will work with the Congress to use this time to design a program which will recognize the proper Federal role in helping States and localities fulfill their responsibilities in educating handicapped children. The Administration will send amendments to the Congress that will accomplish this purpose.

 APPROVE

 DISAPPROVE