

The original documents are located in Box 20, “11/28/75 - Talking Points: Signing of "Older Americans Amendments of 1975" (Not used)” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

DATE 11/28/75

TO: TERRY O'DONNELL

FROM: SARAH MASSENGALE

Terry, here are the talking
points, if they decide on
the signing ceremony.

*No signing
ceremony*

TALKING POINTS:

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN . . .

SIGNING OF "OLDER AMERICANS AMENDMENTS OF 1975"

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1975

1. I AM TODAY SIGNING H.R. 3922 WHICH AMENDS AND
EXTENDS THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT FOR THREE YEARS.
AS A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, I SUPPORTED
THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT, WHEN IT FIRST WAS ENACTED TEN YEARS
AGO. I SUPPORTED SUBSEQUENT AMENDMENTS TO IT.

THESE LATEST REVISIONS ARE THE RESULT OF TEN YEARS OF EXPERIENCE
IN TRYING TO EASE THE DIFFICULT BURDENS OF FAR TOO MANY
ELDERLY AMERICANS.

2. DESPITE SOME OBJECTIONS TO CERTAIN PROVISIONS
OF THIS BILL, I AGREE WITH THE BASIC CONCEPTS OF THE AMENDED
OLDER AMERICANS ACT TO COORDINATE SERVICES AT THE COMMUNITY
LEVEL AND TO PROMOTE INDEPENDENCE AMONG THE ELDERLY.

WITH THE PERCENTAGE OF AMERICANS OVER 64 INCREASING AT A MORE
RAPID RATE THAN THE GENERAL POPULATION, EMPHASIS MUST BE PLACED
ON OPPORTUNITIES FOR OLDER AMERICANS TO CONTINUE ACTIVE
PARTICIPATION IN OUR NATIONAL LIFE.

3. THIS BILL STRESSES SERVICES AVAILABLE TO ENABLE
OLDER AMERICANS TO LIVE AT HOME AND INVOLVES COMMUNITY LEADERS
IN DECIDING THE PROGRAMS NEEDED IN THEIR OWN AREAS.
SELF-HELP AND LOCAL DECISION-MAKING MUST BECOME INCREASINGLY
IMPORTANT ELEMENTS IN THE DRAFTING OF LEGISLATION.

4. THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT RELATING TO AGE

DISCRIMINATION HAVE BEEN MODIFIED TO MEET MANY, BUT NOT ALL
ADMINISTRATION OBJECTIONS. IN ADDITION, I AM CONCERNED
ABOUT THE HIGH AUTHORIZATION LEVELS INCLUDED IN THIS BILL.

I URGE CONGRESS TO WORK WITH THE ADMINISTRATION IN DETERMINING APPROPRIATION LEVELS FOR THIS ACT WHICH WILL BE ADEQUATE BUT NOT INFLATIONARY. I AM SURE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS SHARE MY CONCERN ABOUT THE DISTRESSING IMPACT OF INFLATION ON THE ELDERLY AND WILL COOPERATE IN OUR EFFORTS TO CURB INFLATION.

5. THIS BILL SHOULD HELP MORE OLDER AMERICANS STAY OUT OF ISOLATION AND KEEP THEM IN THE MAINSTREAM OF COMMUNITY LIFE, WHERE THEIR WISDOM AND CONTRIBUTIONS ARE NEEDED.

END OF TEXT

Not Used

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