

**The original documents are located in Box 29, “4/15/76 - Remarks Upon Signing of H.R. Res. 890, National Influenza Immunization Program” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SAID . . .

THE MEASURE I AM ABOUT TO SIGN

REPRESENTS A TIMELY RESPONSE TO MY REQUEST FOR

PROMPT CONGRESSIONAL ACTION TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR

A NATIONAL INFLUENZA IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM.

THIS PROGRAM WILL OFFER EVERY AMERICAN THE OPPORTUNITY

TO BE INOCULATED AGAINST A SWINE-TYPE INFLUENZA VIRUS•

THIS VIRUS WAS THE CAUSE OF A PANDEMIC IN 1918 AND 1919/

THAT RESULTED IN OVER ONE-HALF MILLION DEATHS IN THE

UNITED STATES/AS WELL AS 20 MILLION AROUND THE WORLD•

I AM GRATIFIED THAT THE CONGRESS

COULD ACT PROMPTLY, PRIOR TO ITS EASTER RECESS,

ON A MATTER OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO EVERY CITIZEN.

THIS DEMONSTRATES THAT THE CONGRESS CAN CONFRONT ISSUES

*rapidly*

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*and*

EFFECTIVELY. ~~WHEN IT EXERCISES ITS COLLECTIVE WILL~~

THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE,

DAVID MATHEWS, AND THE DEPARTMENT, ARE MOVING AHEAD

RAPIDLY TO IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM OBJECTIVES.

WE WILL MOBILIZE ALL THE NECESSARY  
NATIONAL RESOURCES TO ENSURE THAT WE ACHIEVE OUR GOAL  
OF MAKING THE INFLUENZA VACCINE AVAILABLE  
TO EVERY AMERICAN BY THE END OF THE YEAR.

END OF TEXT