

**The original documents are located in Box 30, “4/27/76 - Remarks Upon Signing Message to Congress on Drug Abuse” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN . . .

**SIGNING STATEMENT: DRUG MESSAGE**

**APRIL 27, 1976**

FOR NEARLY A YEAR I HAVE BEEN DEVOTING INCREASING  
ATTENTION TO A PROBLEM WHICH STRIKES AT THE VERY HEART  
OF OUR NATIONAL WELL-BEING -- DRUG ABUSE.

I HAVE INITIATED AND THEN ENDORSED A MAJOR STUDY OF THE  
ISSUE;

I HAVE MET WITH FOREIGN HEADS-OF-STATE, MEMBERS OF THE

CONGRESS AND MEMBERS OF MY CABINET TO EXPRESS MY *deep*

*The need for*  
CONCERN AND ~~URGE~~ ACTION; AND I HAVE PUBLICLY SPOKEN

ABOUT THIS AS ONE OF THE MOST SERIOUS AND TRAGIC

PROBLEMS OUR COUNTRY FACES.

TODAY, I AM SENDING TO THE CONGRESS A SPECIAL  
MESSAGE ON DRUG ABUSE WHICH OUTLINES IN FRANK TERMS THE  
SEVERITY OF THE PROBLEM, AND WHICH PROPOSES DEFINITIVE  
STEPS WHICH MUST BE TAKEN TO MEET THE CHALLENGE POSED  
BY THE WORSENING DRUG SITUATION.

I AM REQUESTING THE CONGRESS TO ENACT SPECIFIC  
LEGISLATION TO IMPROVE OUR ABILITY TO PUT THE TRAFFICKERS  
WHO SELL DRUGS INTO PRISON.

I AM ALSO CALLING FOR A RENEWED COMMITMENT TO A  
PROGRAM THAT BALANCES THE LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFORT WITH  
THE PROVISION OF HUMANE AND EFFECTIVE TREATMENT FOR DRUG USERS.

FINALLY, SINCE OUR ABILITY TO CONTROL THE SUPPLY  
OF ILLEGAL DRUGS IN THIS COUNTRY DEPENDS TO A LARGE  
DEGREE ON THE INTEREST AND CAPABILITY OF FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS  
IN CONTROLLING DRUGS WHICH ORIGINATE IN OR MOVE THROUGH  
THEIR TERRITORY, I RENEW THIS GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO  
PROVIDING SUPPORT TO FOREIGN ALLIES IN THIS FIGHT.

WITH THE COMBINED EFFORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH,  
THE CONGRESS, STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,  
AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR, WE CAN CONTROL DRUG ABUSE.



NOW THAT THE PROBLEM IS WORSENING WE MUST NOT SHRINK  
FROM THE CHALLENGE, BUT RATHER REDOUBLE OUR EFFORTS  
AT ALL LEVELS TO PROVIDE THE LEADERSHIP AND RESOURCES  
TO REVERSE THE TREND.

END OF TEXT