THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN...

SIGNING OF DAY CARE BILL

SEPTEMBER 7, 1976
ENSURING ADEQUATE DAY CARE FOR CHILDREN IS AN IMPORTANT SOCIAL SERVICE. IT PROTECTS THE WELL-BEING OF THOUSANDS OF AMERICAN CHILDREN AND THE ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE OF THEIR WORKING PARENTS.

EARLIER THIS YEAR I VETOED A BILL ON CHILD DAY CARE NOT BECAUSE I DISAGREED WITH ITS GOALS BUT BECAUSE THAT BILL WAS THE WRONG MEANS TO A WORTHWHILE END.

TODAY I HAVE SIGNED A NEW AND BETTER CHILD DAY-CARE BILL - THE RESULT OF COMPROMISE AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE CONGRESS AND MY ADMINISTRATION.

THIS NEW AND BETTER BILL EMBODIES A MAJOR COMPROMISE ON A KEY ISSUE WHICH LED TO MY ORIGINAL VETO.
STATES AND LOCALITIES WILL BE SPARED THE HEAVY BURDEN OF COSTLY AND CONTROVERSIAL FEDERAL STANDARDS FOR CHILD DAY-CARE SERVICES.

IN A DIFFERENT AREA OF SOCIAL SERVICE, HAPPY TO SEE THIS BILL ALSO ADOPTS A CONCEPT SUPPORTED BY MANY OLDER AMERICANS AND CONTAINED IN MY FEDERAL ASSISTANCE FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES PROPOSAL. UNDER THIS BILL, OLDER PERSONS AND FAMILIES WHO OBVIOUSLY QUALIFY FOR FEDERALLY ASSISTED SOCIAL SERVICES WILL BE ABLE TO GET THOSE SERVICES WITHOUT A DEMEANING SCRUTINY OF THEIR PERSONAL AFFAIRS.
I still have some reservations about the bill. I am signing today, but it is a better bill than the one which first crossed my desk. It is a better bill because my veto exerted a balancing influence on the Congress. Without this constitutional check and balance, the original bill might now be law and making day care services more costly to the taxpayer and increasing the federal intrusion in family life.
THROUGHOUT MY ADMINISTRATION, THE CONSTITUTIONAL
VETO POWER HAS BEEN USED WITH ONE CONCERN IN MIND:
TO PROTECT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE FROM UNREALISTIC RESPONSES
TO THEIR VERY REAL NEEDS— TO SEE THAT THE FEDERAL
GOVERNMENT DOES NOT MERELY SERVE THE PEOPLE, BUT SERVES
THEM WELL.

END OF TEXT
STATES AND LOCALITIES WILL BE SPARED THE HEAVY BURDEN
OF COSTLY AND CONTROVERSIAL FEDERAL STANDARDS FOR
CHILD DAY-CARE SERVICES.

IN A DIFFERENT AREA OF SOCIAL SERVICE, I AM HAPPY
TO SEE THIS BILL ALSO ADOPTS A CONCEPT SUPPORTED BY
MANY OLDER AMERICANS AND CONTAINED IN MY FINANCIAL
ASSISTANCE FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES PROPOSAL. UNDER THIS
BILL, OLDER PERSONS AND FAMILIES WHO OBVIOUSLY QUALIFY
FOR FEDERALLY ASSISTED SOCIAL SERVICES WILL BE ABLE TO GET
THOSE SERVICES WITHOUT A DEMEANING SCRUTINY OF THEIR
PERSONAL AFFAIRS.