

January 4, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed S. 2854 -- National Arthritis Act of 1974 - which authorizes the establishment of a National Commission on Arthritis and provides specific legislative authority to expand arthritis research and treatment activities by the National Institutes of Health.

The bill establishes an 8-month National Commission on Arthritis to survey Federal, State and local health activities relating to arthritis and formulate a long-range plan to combat the disease, and amends the Public Health Service Act to provide a more specific focus on Federally-supported arthritis research activities.

It authorizes \$2 million for the National Commission on Arthritis.

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