

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 25, 1976

The Speaker of the
House of Representatives

Sir:

I ask the Congress to consider proposed supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year 1976 in the amount of \$135,064,000 for the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

The details of this proposal are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and observations.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gerald R. Ford". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "F" and "R".

Enclosure



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

March 25, 1976

The President

The White House

Sir:

I have the honor to submit for your consideration a proposed supplemental appropriation for the fiscal year 1976 in the amount of \$135,064,000 for the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL

Preventive Health Services

For an additional amount for "Preventive Health Services" for carrying out a comprehensive nationwide influenza immunization program to the extent not otherwise provided, pursuant to sections 301, 311, 317, 351, 352, and 431 of the Public Health Service Act, \$135,064,000, to remain available until expended.

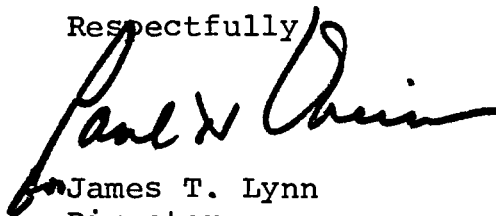
In February 1976, a new strain of influenza virus was isolated from an outbreak of disease at Fort Dix, New Jersey. The virus is antigenically related to the swine influenza virus which is associated with the deaths of 548,000 people in the United States in a 1918-1919 pandemic. Present evidence and past experience indicate the possibility that this country will experience widespread swine influenza during the fall and winter of 1976-1977. Since swine influenza represents a major shift from recent influenza viruses and the population under age 50 is almost universally susceptible, we now have the ingredients for a serious pandemic.

Accordingly, we recommend that the Federal Government undertake the support of a comprehensive campaign to immunize the total United States population against swine influenza. This program must be conducted before the

influenza has a chance to spread next winter. To reach this goal, it will be necessary to assure that sufficient vaccine is produced, that immunization services are available in this short period of time, and that the nation is stimulated to action. The program proposed by this supplemental would meet these requirements, while maintaining the balance between public and private responsibilities in the delivery of health services.

I have carefully reviewed this proposal for appropriations and am satisfied that this request is necessary at this time. I recommend, therefore, that the proposal be transmitted to the Congress.

Respectfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul W. Quinn". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P".

for James T. Lynn
Director