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Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I have today signed S. 3735, the "National Swine Flu Immunization Program of 1976."

I am gratified that the Congress has responded to this potential public health emergency by providing, as I requested, the assurances necessary to make possible the protection of all Americans against this threat.

S. 3735 will permit the Federal Government to assure appropriate liability protection for those manufacturing, distributing and administering the vaccine and provides a claims procedure for persons who might be injured. Extraordinary Federal measures are required to implement a program of this magnitude and I am sure that I speak for all Americans in expressing appreciation for this Congressional action.

Scientific and medical evidence continues to support the need for a national influenza immunization program. We have developed a safe and effective vaccine with a very low risk of adverse reactions. What we must do now is make it available as soon and efficiently as possible.

I strongly reaffirm my commitment to this program and I have directed the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare to move as expeditiously as possible to insure that we keep our original commitment of making this vaccine available to all Americans.

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