

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AUGUST 12, 1976

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
UPON SIGNING S. 3735
THE NATIONAL SWINE FLU
IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM OF 1976

THE CABINET ROOM

12:12 P.M. EDT

Secretary Mathews, Congressman Carter, Dr. Cooper, distinguished members of the medical profession, ladies and gentlemen:

I am deeply appreciative that the Congress, as one of their final actions before the scheduled recess, sent to me for signature the National Swine Flu Immunization Program of 1976. I would like to express my deep appreciation to the bipartisan leadership of both the House and the Senate and responsible leaders in the committees that had jurisdiction for their cooperation in making certain that this legislation got to the White House in time for us to carry forth this program.

This program will permit the Federal Government to assure appropriate liability protection for those who manufacture, distribute and administer this life-saving vaccine. The program also provides a claims procedure for those who might be injured. Scientific and medical evidence continues to support the need for a swine flu inoculation program. A vaccine has been developed that is both safe and effective, with a very low risk of adverse reactions.

I have directed the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare to move as quickly as possible to make this vaccine available to all Americans. I strongly reaffirm my commitment to this program, which will afford millions of Americans protection against an outbreak of swine flu this winter.

I say again, I am grateful that the Congress did take this action so this program could continue.

END (AT 12:14 P.M. EDT)