

PRESS RELEASE - For release

From the Office of Congressman John E. Fogarty, 2nd Congressional District of R.I.

Congressman John E. Fogarty today introduced in Congress a Joint Resolution requesting the President to proclaim the period from November 16 to November 28, 1958, inclusive, as National Retarded Children's Week.

In Mr. Fogarty's resolution he states that it is important that we give proper consideration to the needs and rights of our nation's over 5 million mentally retarded children and adults since it has been proven that retarded children can, with proper and adequate facilities, develop fuller potentials and in many cases become happy, contributing members of society.

Congressman Fogarty said, "Regardless of cause of retardation, a great proportion of retarded children can derive substantial benefits from educational experiences directed specifically toward developing the aptitudes and skills they possess. Today, because of the efforts of dedicated and patient teachers, many of those who are only moderately retarded have high hope for socially useful and personally rewarding lives." He went on to say that while nationwide we can see the results of the combined efforts of private citizens and volunteer groups and the Federal, State, and local levels of government, much more remains to be done and that the research and teaching contributions of the professionals in the field must be built on a firm base of public awareness and support.

"To awaken the American people to the problem of mental retardation, then, and to inform them of our progress in solving it .. on behalf of the National Association for Retarded Children and its many State and local chapters all over the Nation, on behalf of the parents and families of our Nation's 1½ million retarded children, and on behalf of the children themselves who cannot speak for themselves"....Mr. Fogarty said, "I offer this resolution for the establishment of National Retarded Children's Week."