

P R E S S R E L E A S E

FROM THE OFFICE OF
CONGRESSMAN JOHN E. FOGARTY

FOR RELEASE
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U. S. Representative John E. Fogarty today in a statement before the Subcommittee on Special Education of the House Committee on Education and Labor at the Post Office Building in New Haven, Connecticut, urged early favorable approval of his bill to restore the physically and mentally handicapped to "independent living."

The Fogarty bill, which is similar to legislation the Congressman introduced in the 85th Congress, is known as the Rehabilitation Act of 1959, and its purpose is to fill gaps in existing rehabilitation services which result in the denial of such services to many individuals who could benefit from them, to encourage a more effective evaluation service for all handicapped adults, and to round out a program of assistance to the states for the establishment of rehabilitation facilities.

Congressman Fogarty said that in his capacity as Chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee for the Departments of Labor, Health, Education and Welfare, he has had an opportunity to become intimately acquainted with health, education, welfare and related programs through which our government provides essential services to its people and he has noted with pride the progress of the program of rehabilitation. Mr. Fogarty said, however, he has been concerned for some time that under the provisions of Public Law 565 when the "employability" criterion is applied in selection of cases to be served, many persons have to be denied rehabilitation benefits. Mr. Fogarty

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said, "It has been demonstrated time after time that it is utterly impossible to judge in advance whether or not many individuals can be vocationally rehabilitated." "In my judgment," the Congressman said, "the establishment of a program of independent living rehabilitation services, as we call rehabilitation services whose objectives are less than vocational rehabilitation, will result in a tremendous improvement in vocational rehabilitation services to the more severely handicapped individuals."

"I want to say, however," the Congressman went on, "that I am just as much concerned for those individuals who may never achieve the ability to earn wages, as I am for those who may achieve this desirable result."

Mr. Fogarty's bill would provide Federal assistance to the State rehabilitation agencies in establishing adequate diagnostic services for all handicapped adults and setting up workshops for the mentally ill, mentally retarded, cerebral palsied, and other severely handicapped individuals; speech and hearing centers; rehabilitation centers for the blind; and other supplementary rehabilitation facilities. His bill also provides for increasing the appropriation authority for the President's Committee on the Employment of the Handicapped which Mr. Fogarty said is doing an excellent job in promoting the employment opportunities for the handicapped.