

PRESS RELEASE

From: The Office of U.S. Representative  
John E. Fogarty, 2nd Congressional  
District, Rhode Island

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONGRESSMAN FOGARTY ASKS FOR U. S. COMMISSION ON AGING

Washington, D. C., Jan. 31, 1962 -- Rep. John E. Fogarty (D-R. I.) spoke up for 17 million senior Americans today when he introduced a Bill in the U. S. House of Representatives to establish a United States Commission on Aging.

An identical Bill was also introduced today in the Senate by Senator Pat McNamara (D-Mich.), Chairman of the Senate Special Committee on Aging.

The Bill provides for the creation of the Commission on Aging as a permanent, independent agency that will authorize grants to States for establishing and improving organizations to meet the problems of the aging, to conduct necessary surveys and studies, and to authorize grants for community projects and demonstration programs that will expand and sustain the creative ambitions of the elderly. Funds will also be made available for training personnel and for research in the field of aging.

Rep. Fogarty, who fathered the Bill for the White House Conference on Aging held last year, has a long record of keen interest in the Federal aging program. In introducing the Bill

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today, he was outspoken in his impatience with the Department of Health, Education and Welfare saying that "five years, one White House Conference, 12 regional meetings and some 30 Senate hearings later, we find ourselves in the same dilemma - or perhaps a more serious one because we have failed in our promise to the nation's senior citizens." He stated further that it is now his firm conviction that "until a high-level agency is created that will command the respect and full attention of the nation's total efforts, we cannot achieve the goals that we have defined for America's senior citizens."

The Fogarty Bill sets forth a ten-point declaration of objectives for older Americans as the announced policy of the United States:

1. An adequate income for retirement in health, honor and dignity.
2. Equal opportunity to employment.
3. The best possible physical and mental health.
4. Suitable housing.
5. Services to achieve independent living.
6. Full opportunity for meaningful activity.
7. Efficient, coordinated community services when needed.
8. Immediate benefit from proven research knowledge.
9. Freedom, independence and free exercise of individual initiative.
10. The right to consideration of their needs and potentials without fragmentation.

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