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FROM THE OFFICE OF
CONGRESSMAN JOHN E. FOGARTY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Congressman John E. Fogarty today introduced a bill to encourage the expansion and improvement of state programs of special education and related services for exceptional children through Federal financial assistance to such programs; to assist colleges and universities to provide special courses of instruction and scholarships; to establish research grants and special projects; and for other purposes. The short title of this bill is the Exceptional Children's Act of 1963.

In presenting the bill in the House of Representatives Fogarty said, "if enacted into law, this bill would meet a long apparent and pressing need by making it possible for states and local communities to provide more adequately for the special education of their exceptional children -- the physically and mentally handicapped and the gifted. In short, it would provide for a comprehensive program for the special education of physically and mentally handicapped children similar to the comprehensive program for handicapped adults already established under the Vocational Rehabilitation Act for many years."

Briefly, the Fogarty bill would do the following: (1) establish a program of Federal grants-in-aid to the states on a matching fund basis to assist them to establish and operate programs of special education for handicapped and gifted children; (2) provide for extension and improvement grants to the states for special education programs; (3) provide for a program of grants to colleges and universities as well as to state educational agencies for scholarships and fellowships to train teachers and other specialized personnel needed in the education of exceptional children; and (4) establish in the Office of Education a research and demonstration projects program in the education of exceptional children.

The bill has extensive support from most of the national organizations concerned about the education of exceptional children -- and their numerous local affiliates -- interested in the special educational problems of handicapped and gifted children.