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PRESS RELEASE BY HONORABLE JOHN E. FOGARTY SECOND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND

Congressman John E. Fogarty reported today that Rhode Island schools would receive \$2.8 million in Federal funds for textbooks if Congress enacts legislation which he has introduced. Fogarty's bill is entitled the "Children's Educational Assistance Act of 1965" (H.R. 1695) and would authorize the U.S. Commissioner of Education to allocate a total of \$650 million among all States during fiscal year 1966 to be used for textbooks and teaching aids.

In introducing the bill Mr. Fogarty pointed to the Federal responsibility to assist in the achievement of educational excellence for every American child. Further, his bill states that there should be no distinction among the children of the Nation in the distribution of educational benefits.

Rhode Island public and private schools would be eligible for sums averaging about \$13 per child under the program. Subjects eligible for assistance include science, mathematics, history, civics, geography, modern foreign language, English, or reading.

Fogarty said that administration of the program would be through State Commissioners which would specify textbooks available for selection and set priorities for projects. Regulations would require that books be used by students on a loan basis.

The Congressman added that his bill meets many of the same objectives as the education legislation proposed recently by President Johnson and would meet the constitutional requirements affecting aid to students in private as well as public schools.