

EDWARD M. KENNEDY
MASSACHUSETTS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

April 17, 1973

Mr. Paul Healy, City Clerk
City Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Dear Mr. Healy:

Thank you very much for your letter concerning the changes proposed by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare in key elements of the social services program of the Social Security Act - changes which threaten to cripple the effectiveness of a program which has assisted States in helping families off the welfare rolls and which has provided essential services for the aged, blind and disabled.

I view these proposed regulations as an attempt by the Administration to scuttle the social services program in direct violation of the repeatedly expressed intent of Congress that it be continued and supported by the Federal government. In Massachusetts alone, over 70,000 citizens will be affected if these regulations are not rescinded. Those hurt most will include not only recipients of public assistance, but also the working poor, the elderly, working mothers and their children, and the mentally disabled.

I have spoken out against the new regulations on the Senate floor and have joined with a bi-partisan group of 42 Senators in introducing legislation to block these changes should the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare fail to act. I have also called on the Secretary to heed the concerns of the 25,000 people who have written to him about the effects of the proposed rule changes.

Thousands of social service recipients and program administrators have called for the withdrawal of the proposed regulations - which they fear will leave the States with no alternative but to turn their backs on the handicapped and the poor. I intend to work to see that their views are not ignored by the Administration or by the Congress. Your thoughtful expression of concern about this vital program has been most helpful to me in this effort.

Sincerely,

Ed Kennedy
Edward M. Kennedy

Comm. # 2.

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Comm. from Senator Edward M. Kennedy
recording his opposition to changes
proposed by the Dept. of Health,
Education and Welfare in key elements
of the Social Services Program

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Copies
London

In City Council,

April 30, 1978

Planned File -