

Aid to Families with Dependent Children -  
Amount of Assistance

FOR the purpose of specifying the maximum allowable amount of assistance to be granted by the local units for dependent children for certain fiscal years; defining certain terms; and generally relating to grants for dependent children.

May 26, 1977

Honorable Steny H. Hoyer  
President of the Senate  
State House  
Annapolis, Maryland 21404

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have today vetoed Senate Bill 715.

This bill increases AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children) grants to the Maryland standard of need over a four year period beginning in fiscal year 1979.

The State standard of need is a schedule of benefits which indicates the resources required by an individual or a family for subsistence. In addition to cash payments, the State provides for meeting this resource need through a number of non-monetary methods, including medical assistance, food stamps, and public housing. If the intention of Senate Bill 715 is to provide 100% of the State standard of need, consideration should be given to the dollar value of non-monetary benefits which are provided along with the dollar value of the current basic grant. Such a consideration would reveal that the State is now meeting or close to meeting this objective.

However, if the General Assembly intends that the State should consider only cash payments in meeting the standard of need, I believe that compliance would be cost prohibitive. The five percent increase in AFDC grants included in the fiscal 1978 budget will increase a grant to a family of four with no resources to 81.5% of the State standard of need. To reach the goal of 100% of the standard, an additional \$36,823,541 would be required to fund the grant increase. Using accepted measurements for caseload growth associated with grant increases, approximately 24,071 more recipients would be added to the rolls at a potential cost of \$22,684,270, of which \$11,342,135 would be general funds.

Additionally, Senate Bill 715 limits the flexibility