

March 4, 1975

1300 Gifford St.
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15212

Mr. John Heinz, Congressman
2031 Federal Building
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15222

Attention: Mr. John McCartney

I am writing this letter in desperation. All my life I have been very independent, but now I am begging for help.

Twenty-two years ago when I was five months pregnant with my first child, my husband, a veteran, Elmer G. [REDACTED] was killed in an automobile accident. As a result of this shock to my system my son, Paul, was born severely retarded, cerebral palsied, poor eyesight and with petit mal epilepsy (which is now pretty much under control through medication).

Several years ago Paul's name was added to the waiting list at Western State School at Canonsburg, Pa. On February 18, this year I was taking Paul upstairs, when he fell back on me, crushing my left leg. My husband rushed me to the hospital where I was operated on and remained until this past Thursday. In the meantime, my 76 year old Mother, who has a thyroid condition, heart condition and Glaucoma is trying to care for Paul who must remain upstairs. Paul is about five-foot eight inches tall and weighs about 170 pounds and was even harder for me to care for. My leg is in a cast from ankle to hip and I can do practically nothing and must remain downstairs.

We understand that all admissions to Western State School are being blocked by the Pennsylvania Association for Retarded Citizens. I can't believe this to be legal. Surely in a case such as ours which certainly can qualify as an emergency something could and should be done. My family doctor T.D.L. Weaver and my surgeon Dr. McLaughlin would be only too glad to verify the above facts and also the fact that I can never again care for my son. It would have to be a permanent placement.

Our family is a praying family and right now it is the main thing that is keeping us going. If anything at all can be done about this situation we pray you can help us in any way possible. Our heartfelt thanks go out to you for anything you can do, in this emergency.

Sincerely,

Margie H. [REDACTED]

(Mrs.) Margie [REDACTED]

P. S. Paul receives Social Security and
Veteran's Pension.