

# House gets new bill to aid retarded

ADVANCE WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — Congressman John M. Murphy, Staten Island Democrat, today reintroduced legislation which would reform treatment of the nation's mentally rearded.

The Island Democrat has been joined by 76 co-sponsors, making the legislation one of the most widely supported bills in the House.

"For the more than 200,000 mentally handicapped persons who live all too often in appalling conditions of neglect, there is nothing but despair and suffering," Murphy said.

"The legislation I have developed would establish strict standards for the humane care, treatment and protection of the mentally retarded in residential facilities and at the same time stimulate states to establish plans for regional and community programs for the mentally retarded," he added.

Murphy's bill was developed after he led a congressional delegation through Willowbrook State School on Staten Island, the largest mental institution in the country.

"The Bill of Rights for the mentally retarded was drafted as a result of the steadily deteriorating conditions seen at this institution and others across the country," Murphy said.

Murphy's bill would authorize \$45 million over the next three years for the states to develop comprehensive plans for establishing and upgrading residential facilities for the mentally retarded; \$45 million over the next three years to improve services provided by existing facilities for the mentally retarded; authorize necessary sums to assist non-profit organizations to develop community living situations for the mentally retarded, and