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Education Counsel Of Senate Unit Dies

By Richard E. Prince
Washington Post Staff Writer

Stephen J. Wexler, 40, Democratic counsel of the education subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, was killed Saturday in Annapolis when the motorcycle he was riding was involved in a collision.

Mr. Wexler lived on Harness Creek Road in Annapolis.

Born in Providence, R.I., Mr. Wexler attended public schools there and was graduated in 1956 from the University of Rhode Island. He served in the Army from 1958 to 1960 and was graduated from the Georgetown University Law Center in 1962.

Mr. Wexler served as associate counsel for the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFL-CIO) from 1963 to 1964, before entering private practice.

While in private practice, from 1964 to 1966, he also served as a consultant to the Labor Department and directed the unsuccessful reelection campaign of David J. McDonald, former president of the United Steelworkers of America.

Since 1966, when he began his Senate career, Mr. Wexler had been a key figure in shaping major education legislation and helped create the federal government's role in supporting the arts and humanities.

From 1966 to 1969, he was associate general counsel of the Labor and Public Works Committee, working with the railroad retirement and the arts and humanities subcommittees.

Since 1969 Mr. Wexler had been majority counsel for the education subcommittee, shaping such major legislation as the Higher Education Amendments of 1972, which today is the corner-



STEPHEN J. WEXLER

stone of the U.S. government's student aid program.

In a statement issued yesterday, Sen. Claiborne Pell (D-R.I.), chairman of the education subcommittee, said Mr. Wexler "was intensely devoted to improving the quality of education at all levels across our nation, and to assuring that quality education was available to all citizens."

Survivors include his wife, Elizabeth and a son, Adam, of the home; his mother, Anne of Providence and a sister, Jeanne Fellman of Cranston, R.I.