



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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Joe Reppert—Press Secretary

Enclosed is my statement regarding funding for Developmental Disabilities Programs in Fiscal Year 1972-1973. I hope that it will be of interest to you.

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Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I wish to express my concern that Congress provide appropriations to continue funding programs authorized under the 1970 Developmental Disabilities Act. These developmental disabilities programs have been extremely effective in assisting States in establishing comprehensive care programs for the disabled. Their initial accomplishments have only revealed the potential benefits which can accrue to the disabled if these programs were to be expanded. Their success illustrates a need for expanded funding, and I feel it calls for a general commitment by the Congress to improve the lives of the handicapped.

In the State of Kansas, title I developmental disability funds are being used to expand services in three crucial areas: day care programs for school age and preschool disabled children, adult rehabilitation service, and institutional services. But to expand these programs and services to more effectively meet the existing need, additional funds are required. It has been estimated that Kansas would require 10 times the funds now available to the State if it were to extend its priority programs to all the disabled of the State. Though an immediate increase of this size is not feasible, we should keep these needs in mind as we consider funding for the coming fiscal year.

Title II of the Developmental Disabilities Act authorizes grants to university affiliated facilities. The gradual assumption of regional responsibility by the 28 existing university affiliated facilities has built a network of interdisciplinary centers which provide research and diagnostic services and manpower training to supplement State rehabilitation programs. These centers are affiliated with universities and call upon the expertise from the various disciplines of the university community to provide comprehensive training and diagnostic services for the disabled.

The University of Kansas affiliated mental retardation center recently was dedicated and became operational. The center was created to train individuals who work with the disabled, provide advisory and technical service to statewide programs, and provide diagnostic services through new patterns of delivery. The university affiliated center depends on multiple funding sources to carry on its program. Title II is a vital element of this funding program for the operation of this center which means so much to the disabled of Kansas.

Mr. President, I have outlined the need for substantial increases in developmental disability funds in Kansas. I am sure that other Senators can testify to a comparable need in their States, so I respectfully urge that these needs be kept foremost in mind during our deliberation on fiscal year 1973 appropriations for the developmental disabilities program.