

BOB DOLE
1ST DISTRICT, KANSAS

43 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
AREA CODE 202
225-2715

COMMITTEES: .
AGRICULTURE
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

DISTRICT OFFICE:
210 FEDERAL BUILDING
HUTCHINSON, KANSAS 67301

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

COUNTIES:		
BARBER	HODGEMAN	RAWLINS
BARTON	JEWELL	RENO
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CLARK	KINGMAN	RICE
CLOUD	KIOWA	ROOKS
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DECATUR	LINCOLN	RUSSELL
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ELLSWORTH	MITCHELL	SEWARD
FINNEY	MORTON	SHERIDAN
FORD	NESS	SHERMAN
GOVE	NORTON	SMITH
GRAHAM	OSBORNE	STAFFORD
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HASKEL		WICHITA

February 7, 1966

The following is a statement made by Congressman Dole in support of the Veterans' Readjustment Benefits Act of 1966:

MR. SPEAKER: I rise in support of H. R. 12410, the Veterans' Readjustment Benefits Act of 1966. A great many members of this body have been the direct beneficiaries of World War II and Korean conflict "G. I. Bills" and know firsthand the value of such legislation.

While H. R. 12410 is not completely satisfactory in the eyes of many, the Veterans Affairs Committee is to be commended for making this measure a priority item in this, the Second Session of the 89th Congress.

I have carefully reviewed H. R. 12410 and am satisfied it has been designed to insure that our nation will be able to utilize the highest skills and abilities of veterans who will benefit from this legislation. The Veterans' Readjustment Benefits Act of 1966 provides a permanent program of educational assistance for individuals serving in the Armed Forces, discharged after January 31, 1955. It is a flexible program, as it provides college-level and below-college-level training in trade, vocational, and technical schools. Eligibility accrues at the rate of one month of training for one month of service with a limit of 36 months, and the bill also provides a person serving on active duty for training does not accrue eligibility. In my opinion, the allowances provided are generally adequate, as are the program limitations. As I understand the measure, a full time student with no dependents will receive \$100 per month, \$125 per month with one dependent, and \$150 per month with two or more dependents. Less than full time students will, of course, receive smaller benefits. There are other provisions which have been more fully discussed, but, in essence, the educational benefits appear to be reasonable in most instances, and, in my opinion, long overdue.

In addition to the education benefits, H. R. 12410 also extends benefits of both the guaranteed and the direct home loan programs to veterans discharged after January 31 of 1955. It provides non-service connected medical care to veterans serving after January 31, 1955. Eligibility for treatment of non-service connected disabilities, very properly in my opinion, is based on availability of a bed in a Veterans Administration hospital and the signing of a statement of inability to pay for treatment elsewhere.

This legislation extends preference in employment in federal service to the group of veterans discharged after January 31, 1955, on the same basis as is currently applicable to war veterans. It provides job counseling and job placement assistance; a presumption of service-connection of certain chronic and tropical diseases; protection for individuals who are renting homes when called to service; and permits the Veterans Administration to furnish burial flags for draping the caskets of deceased veterans with service after January 31, 1955, as is now provided war veterans.

Mr. Speaker, many times this body has met and concerned itself with matters of grave importance to this great nation and others. Of no less importance is the Veterans' Readjustment Benefits Act of 1966.

There are some who have resisted this measure in the name of economy. It is indeed difficult to reconcile this view with the recent record of spending. The express purpose of the legislation is to enhance and make more attractive service in the Armed Forces of the United States and, in addition, to provide assistance to those who serve in the Armed Forces in attaining the vocational and educational status they might normally have aspired to and obtained had they not served their country. Not all those who serve are exposed to the dangers of combat, but the choice is never theirs. All those who serve do, in effect, give a portion of their life to the service of their country for the benefit of all Americans. If billions can be spent on "Great Society" programs, a little can be expended to assist those who have kept and are keeping our society free. This bill is a step in the right direction and should be enacted forthwith.