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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C., JULY 11-- U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) today co-sponsored a bill to amend the Randolph-Sheppard Act which authorizes blind persons to operate vending stands on Federal property.

Dole said, "The bill proposes to change the term 'vending stand' to 'vending facility' to more accurately cover the wide variety of concessions operated on Federal property by blind persons. Secondly, he said, the age requirement of 21 for a licensed operator would be eliminated to include responsible and capable blind persons under 21."

Dole said a third inclusion in the amending bill would provide consideration of vending facility sites in the design, construction and substantial alteration of Federal buildings. "This provision, he said, "will help to assure growth of employment opportunities for persons while providing a valuable service to employees and the public."

Other provisions of the bill would eliminate the one-year residence requirement as a prerequisite for licensing of blind concessionaires and would expand the fair-hearing mechanism to include an arbitration procedure for aggrieved licensed operators.

Dole concluded, "Support of this legislation will help provide the opportunity for blind men and women to become the self-supporting taxpaying citizens they are capable of being."

On Federal property, there were 836 stands employing 972 blind persons at the end of fiscal year 1968.

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