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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C. Sept. 14 -- An amendment introduced today by U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) to provide for the establishment -- within the Department of Health, Education and Welfare -- of a National Information and Resource Center for the Handicapped, was accepted by the Senate. The Dole amendment was added to the Public Health Service Act which the Senate passed 64-1.

The center would collect, organize and publish information and data on medical and rehabilitation facilities and services; day care and other programs for young children; education; vocational training; employment; transportation; architecture and housing; recreation and public or private programs established for or which may be used in solving problems of the handicapped.

The provision authorizes \$300,000 for the center for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1971.

"Greater availability and coordination of knowledge is essential to achieving meaningful solutions and progress of the disabled," Dole said. "Too often, information is incomplete, unavailable or inaccessible. Too frequently, the person in immediate need does not know where to go to obtain information.

"A tremendous number of resources, public and private, are available to help meet the needs of these millions of handicapped persons. In this framework of available resources for our disabled citizens, we must be sure that our efforts and money are most effectively used to fill their needs.

"This center would insure that all the knowledge and information regarding services be consolidated and made available to the handicapped person in the form he can best use and when he most needs it. Presently, no one source exists.

"Establishment of such a center would do much to alleviate problems and promote productive lives for the handicapped."

The Public Health Service Act now awaits action by the House.