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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C., FEBRUARY 25, 1971 -- U.S. Senator Bob Dole today joined in co-sponsoring the Health Care Insurance Act of 1971, known as MEDICREDIT.

Dole said, "This bill concerns itself with one of the more serious deficiencies of our present Health Care System, the lack of adequate health care financing for millions of Americans."

"This bill uses the good parts of our Health Insurance and Delivery System, and it seeks to add improvements. It provides government help for those who need help and it has incentives for the indigent and those on welfare to go to work and improve themselves, by not depriving them of all the benefits of government assistance as they improve their situations."

Dole said the approach this legislation takes in providing adequate health care financing for the American people is similar in many respects to the approach contained in the President's Health Message transmitted to Congress earlier this week. Dole said he intended to also co-sponsor the Administration Health Care Bills that will be sent to Congress because he feels both Medicredit and the President's proposals have the following points in common:

*They would replace the present Medicaid program in whole or part.

*They would establish a federally-paid floor of health benefits in all 50 states.

*They would provide federal financial assistance for health care based on the need of the recipient; the most help to those with the biggest need.

*They would contain incentives for wage earners to improve themselves and for those on welfare to go to work through a system of gradually reducing benefits as the individuals' income increases.

*They would insure benefits sufficient to pay for a serious long-term illness.

*And they would retain the private insurance industry.

Dole said that Medicredit has a three-fold financing method. First, a government-paid insurance policy for the poor. Second, no cut of benefits when a certain income level is reached and third, the protection against catastrophic illnesses.