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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C., March 12 --- U.S. Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kans.) today termed "increased social security benefits" as "absolutely essential," due to the rising cost of living, to many recipients.

The Kansas Senator commented today after the passage of a Senate bill that would raise social security benefits by 10 per cent.

Passed by a 82-0 vote, the bill provides:

- (1) 10 per cent increase in benefits, retroactive to Jan. 1971.
- (2) \$64 to \$100 increase in the minimum primary insurance amount--- the minimum monthly payment to beneficiaries when they start to receive benefits at 65 or older.
- (3) 10 per cent increase retroactive to Jan. 71 of special cash payments that are made under present law to people 72 or older who are not insured for regular cash benefits under the social security system.
- (4) \$1,680 to \$2,400 increase in amount of annual exempt earnings for purposes of the so-called "retirement test."
- (5) increase to \$9,000 in tax base utilized for social security program, retroactive to Jan. 1.