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WASHINGTON, D.C. ---- U.S. Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kans.) expressed optimism today for improved health care in Kansas, upon the signing of the \$2.9 billion Comprehensive Health Manpower Act by the President.

Dole, who was a cosponsor in the Senate of the Administration's original health manpower bill, praised the health care legislation for its concentration on needs that are of high priority to Kansans, as well as people from other states.

The Senator explained that the Act is primarily designed to increase the number of doctor and allied health personnel over the next three years, and added that maldistribution of personnel is an especially critical problem in Kansas.

Dole said current figures show that nationally, there is one active physician to serve every 630 persons, while in Kansas there is only one active physician to serve every 867 Kansans. Dole cited the following Kansas counties to demonstrate the extent of the problem:

Ford County:	1 licensed practical nurse per 253 patients
Barber County:	1 LPN per 7,017 patients

Harvey County:	1 registered nurse per 83 patients
Doniphan County:	1 RN per 758 patients

Wyandotte County:	1 physician per 403 patients
Linn County:	1 physician per 7,770 patients

(Wyandotte County, for instance, has more than 19 times as many physicians per patients as does Linn County.)

The Kansas Senator said that the Act signed by President Nixon today authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare to make scholarship grants directly to medical students who, upon completion of their training, agree to practice in physician shortage areas or in areas with substantial migratory farm worker population. Dole said the grants are not to exceed \$5,000 a year, and that for each year a scholarship is received, there must be a year of the type of practice stipulated by HEW.

In addition to the grant program, loans with liberal repayment terms will be made to students who agree to practice for a time in medically underserved areas, Dole said.

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Dole said:

The grant and loan programs under the Comprehensive Health Manpower Act will produce multiple benefits. Medical students in need of additional financing for their training will benefit while underserved areas will gain resident physicians.

The University of Kansas Medical School will also directly benefit from the Act, which Dole said will have in turn "spin of benefits for the entire state."

Capitation formula grants, provided in the Act, will give to the KU Medical School \$2,500 for each student enrolled, and \$6,000 for each student who will graduate from KU Medical School.