



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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Washington, D.C. -- Senator Bob Dole today introduced legislation to help solve the critical shortage of doctors in rural communities in Kansas and across the nation.

Dole said that the bill was a simple and direct approach to provide immediate relief for communities facing physician shortages and that he was hopeful that prompt action would be taken by Congress on the measure.

The bill would provide a tax incentive for physicians who practice in critical health manpower shortage areas. In addition, the proposal would permit physicians to fulfill their military obligations by serving in civilian critical health manpower shortage areas.

Dole said that this provision of the bill was based on the premise that the recent disengagement from Vietnam has reduced the demand for military physicians and that those physicians who had incurred an obligation during the period of the Vietnam conflict should now be used to meet the greatest health care needs of the country regardless of whether they arise within the military or civilian sector.

There are 6 Kansas communities which currently have approved National Health Service Corps projects, yet only one of the 6 has yet been assured of physician placement. Dole said he was hopeful that all of these Kansas communities would be able to acquire the necessary medical personnel and felt that passage of this legislation would improve their chances for success.