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NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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DRUG ABUSE STILL A MAJOR PROBLEM

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Drug Abuse is a national emergency in the U.S. and one that is of great concern to me. I have just recently voted in favor of stiffer sentences for drug pushers in an effort to help decrease the number of new users. Although some progress has been made recently, the problem of drug abuse remains a major one.

One response to this tremendous problem has been the establishment of the Special Action Office for Drug Abuse Prevention by President Nixon in June, 1971.

The basic mission of the office is twofold. First, it is directed to take immediate steps to reduce drug abuse in the U.S. within the shortest possible time. Second, it has the responsibility for developing a comprehensive long-term Federal strategy to combat drug abuse.

Special Action Office authority covers all Federal programs or activities relating to drug abuse education, training, treatment, research and rehabilitation, irrespective of the agencies which run them. At present, there are 19 Federal departments and agencies engaged in the non-law enforcement aspects of drug abuse prevention.

More importantly, the Special Action Office sets goals, establishes priorities, and specifies how Federal resources of funds, programs, services, and facilities shall be used to combat drug abuse.

In addition, a National Drug Abuse Training Center has been organized to train individuals who have responsibility for

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establishing and operating community drug programs. It also trains professionals and paraprofessionals to staff drug treatment programs all over the country. Several of these programs have been set up in Kansas. They provide a wide variety of services, such as crisis intervention, family and group counseling, individual psychotherapy, vocational training, job placement, and drug free detoxification. Most programs admit children from age 13 up.

By working together at the Federal and community levels, we can control the spread of drug abuse and drug addiction. It is my hope that with the help of all Americans we will ultimately eliminate drug abuse as a major national problem.