



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DOLE ATTEMPTS TO GAIN INCREASE FOR KANSAS SOCIAL SERVICES

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Senator Bob Dole announced today that he will try on Monday to obtain an increase in the 1974 Kansas entitlement under the Federal Social Services Program.

The Social Services program provides federal funds to states of a 3 to 1 matching basis for the operation of programs for needy citizens. If the program were fully funded, Kansas would have a state entitlement of \$27.1 million annually under the law. Due to budget restriction imposed during the coming year however, the program will be funded nation-wide at only 3/4 of the \$2.5 billion which has been authorized.

The Senate Finance Committee has tentatively agreed to impose the reduction in funding on those states which have not been fully utilizing their Federal Entitlements. Kansas is among these. Last year Kansas used only \$6.9 million of the \$27.1 million available to it under the Social Services Program. Unless the Dole Amendments are adopted, the state will be locked into a low level of funding during 1974 because of its less than full participation in the program in the past.

"The amendments we have adopted in committee would broaden the range of service that can be offered under the Social Services Program," Dole said. "This is not just a welfare program. Monies can be utilized to provide a myriad of services to the elderly, the developmentally disabled, and other needy residents of the state".

Under the 1974 formula, Social Services entitlement funds not used by a given state are redistributed to other states which will put them to use in their own programs. If Kansas doesn't use the money, New York and California, which already get almost half a billion dollars under the program, and other states like them, will get the funds Kansas doesn't use.

Dole will try to get the increase for Kansas by introducing a series of amendments to H.R.3153 during Monday's executive session of the Senate Finance Committee. In prior action on the bill, the committee has agreed to increase Social Security benefits by 7% effective through May of 1974, after which time a permanent 11% increase goes into effect.

