



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 225-6521
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CONTACT: JANET ANDERSON

DOLE TESTIFIES ON COMPREHENSIVE VIETNAM ERA VETERANS EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS ACT

WASHINGTON, D.C.--In testimony this morning before the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, Senator Bob Dole said the issue of greatest urgency contained in his Comprehensive Vietnam Era Veterans Educational Benefits Act, "is probably the extension of eligibility from 8 to 10 years. Of the approximately 12,000 Vietnam veterans attending school in Kansas, as many as one-third may lose eligibility on June 1, 1974, unless this measure is passed quickly." Dole added that it might be necessary to act on a separate bill to extend eligibility in order to meet the deadline.

Stressing the importance of increasing the monthly subsistence allowance by 13.6% as proposed by the bill, Dole said, "The figures from Kansas show that Vietnam veterans need a higher level of financial assistance. Tuition and fees at public university in Kansas range from \$390 to \$544. With an assistance rate of \$1,980 for single veterans in a nine month academic year, each veteran must make up a difference of \$600 to \$1500 each, year, according to the individual's curriculum and living expenses. The situation is even more difficult for veterans with dependents. VA assistance falls short by \$1,300 to \$3,000 or more. The differences between VA assistance and school expenses are difficult or impossible to make up in part time or summer jobs for many veterans."

Dole said widespread support of the bill indicates agreement as to the importance of providing tuition payments. Again using figures from Kansas, Dole said, "Non-public colleges in Kansas require annual tuitions ranging from \$1,150 to \$2,100 for an average of \$1,500. This is about \$1,000 higher than for public schools. The veteran who desires to attend private colleges obviously has a much more difficult financial problem. The only way to be fair to him is to provide tuition payments."

The Comprehensive Vietnam Era Veterans Educational Benefits act was introduced jointly by Senators Dole, George McGovern, Daniel Inouye and Charles Mathias on December 7, 1973.