



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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Enclosed video tape runs 1 minute 2 seconds.

Following is the text:

Last week, I introduced a bill in the United States Senate to raise the Veterans Administration to cabinet level status by creating a Department of Veterans Affairs. In my opinion, this step would raise the quality of services and benefits available to veterans and I believe this change is long overdue.

The simple fact is that the VA directly influences the lives of over 29 million veterans, and when they wives and children are counted, the VA affects nearly one half our population.

The VA's budget, at \$13.4 billion, is the third largest budget of all federal agencies. The VA is the second largest federal employer.

With its vast medical system and numerous social services and responsibilities, the VA obviously belongs at cabinet level rank. It would mean better treatment and service to all our deserving veterans, and I hope the Congress will move quickly on this measure.