



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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WASHINGTON, D.C.--Senator Bob Dole announced today that the House and Senate Conferees on the important Education bill, now in its final stages of resolution in Conference, have reportedly agreed to accept the Senate's language pertaining to Federal Impact Aid for School Districts. Dole was instrumental in assuring that, under the Senate version of the new law, Kansas' School Finance plan would qualify for the most favorable treatment possible.

Dole had worked since last fall to get a permanent revision of Federal law so that Kansas could retain its eligibility for some \$8 million in aid under the program. The Department of Health, Education and Welfare had declared Kansas ineligible for the aid until Dole successfully obtained a temporary one-year exception for the State last November.

The new law will be particularly significant to Kansas School Districts, the Senator advised, because in addition to guaranteeing receipt of the Public Law 81-874 payments themselves it will allow the full amount of Public Law 81-874 funds to be taken into account in determining the degree of state aid to go to each local education agency.

"The House bill, on the other hand, would have limited such consideration to the equivalent ratio of assistance provided from State sources -- or roughly only 40%," Dole continued. "As a result, Kansas would have to have increased its general state aid by several million dollars more than normally budgeted, and non-impacted districts would have faced general fund levies in excess of 20, or even 30 mills. This certainly would have defeated the entire spirit of the State's intention to bring about equalized expenditures."

Kansas will also benefit from a Senate provision, included as an amendment initiated by Dole, which allows states adopting equalization plans to be reimbursed for the costs of their development. Estimates indicate this would mean in excess of \$50,000 to Kansas.