



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.-Kans.)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SENATORS URGE FORD TO SIGN VETERANS AID BILL, 63 SIGN DOLE LETTER

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kan.) has sent a letter to President Ford signed by himself and 62 of his Senate colleagues seeking President Ford's help "in avoiding further delays in the enactment of an improved Vietnam-era veterans education bill".

Members of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee have sent a similar letter to President Ford, bringing the total of Senators indicating their support for the Bill to 72.

DOLE's bi-partisan letter told Ford, "Your approval of this bill is of vital importance to Vietnam veterans and to the fabric of our society as a whole".

The letter pointed out that the Bill, which the Senate passed in June, "has already been compromised not once, but twice, in two separate conferences with the House of Representatives, in an effort to meet objections from those who argued that our original bill would have been too expensive". The letter indicated support for the President's "very strong interest in cutting out unnecessary Federal expenditures", but asserted that a strong Veterans educational bill would "enhance our economic stability."

Urging the President to sign the Bill, in the face of some indications that a veto was being considered, they told Ford that, "Beginning with initial consideration of an improved G.I. Bill last year, our Vietnam-era veterans have been waiting, hoping and expecting that action would be completed on this vital legislation during the current session of Congress. Many of them have already gone into debt by enrolling in this fall's academic semester on the good faith belief that such legislation would in fact be enacted."