



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.-Kans.)

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NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE COULD BRING HEALTH CARE DELIVERY SYSTEM TO GRINDING HALT, DOLE SAYS

ST. LOUIS -- Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) today warned that adoption of a comprehensive national health insurance plan could bring the health care delivery system to a grinding halt.

Speaking before a meeting of the American Association of Diabetes Educators, Dole stated that current proposals for national health insurance do not adequately address the central issues of rising health delivery costs and inadequate health care for some individuals.

"We should focus our attention on protecting both the public and service providers from collapse of the system due to runaway costs," he said.

"I do not believe that now is the time to scrap our present system and replace it with a whole new program which may fall prey to the same problems.

"You are probably as tired as we are of hearing the rhetoric and debate about national health insurance that has floated around this city for many more years than I care to remember. No one can disagree with a utopian fantasy that brings all things to all people. But when I analyze today's delivery system and the costs we already face, I just cannot believe that at the present time we can devise a national health insurance plan that can fully cover the needs of all our citizens without committing more dollars than our country can afford, and without bringing the health care delivery system as such to a grinding halt."

Dole said he was urging Congress to adopt the plan for catastrophic health insurance that he and Sens. Long, Ribicoff and Talmadge are sponsoring. In addition to protecting families from financial disaster that can strike because of a catastrophic illness, the bill also replaces Medicaid with a uniform national program of medical benefits for low-income persons and provides for a voluntary federal certification program for basic private health insurance to encourage them to make basic coverage available in all areas of the country.

Following is the text of Dole's remarks: