

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

2213 Dirksen Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

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CONTACT: BOB WAITE
(202) 224-8953

DOLE SPEAKS OUT FOR PASSAGE OF BILL TO ASSIST ELDERLY DURING HEAT WAVES

WASHINGTON -- The Senate today passed legislation cosponsored by Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas) which will provide assistance to the nation's elderly during periods of extreme heat.

The measure, Senate Bill 2995, was sponsored by Senator Lloyd Bentsen (D.-Texas), with Senator Dole providing bi-partisan support on the Senate floor during debate.

"This legislation was a much-needed attempt to provide emergency services to low-income individuals during periods of prolonged heat," Dole said. "We have heard reports of so many tragedies among our nation's elderly population -- over 2,000 individuals have died as a result of extreme heat conditions -- something just had to be done."

Dole added, "There are funds available within the Community Services Administration, but they were not being utilized to provide relief to low-income citizens because there was no authorization to do so.

Increased Flexibility

"This legislation will provide increased flexibility of funding within the Community Services Administration, in order for relief services to be provided now and in the future," Dole said. "There are elderly people out there who could be brought to heat shelters, who need fans or air conditioners, but cannot even afford to pay their electric bills.

"The elderly are our nation's most vulnerable citizens -- they have to absorb the brunt of our nation's economic decline and the shrinking dollar, because they are forced to live on fixed incomes after having led productive lives," Dole said. "It is about time that we focused in on this recent, overwhelming need, and I am pleased to see that the Senate has taken immediate action in passing the necessary legislation to provide assistance."