

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1984

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PRESIDENT SIGNS DOLE INITIATIVE DESIGNATING HOSPICE MONTH

WASHINGTON -- President Ronald Reagan recently signed a Congressional resolution authored by Kansas Senator Bob Dole that designates November 1984 as "National Hospice Month."

The Presidential action endorses Senator Dole's initiative to designate a month during which the nation can recognize hospice care as a humane response to the needs of the terminally ill.

Senator Dole, in noting the President's signing of the bill, said "the hospice concept of care has proven to be a humanitarian way for patients and families to cope with the immeasurable stress and emotion of terminal illness. While the understanding and support for this concept has grown dramatically in the last few years, there is a need to continue to educate the public about the benefits of hospice and to encourage further development in this area."

"It is also important to recognize the significant contributions made by those who have devoted their time and resources in advancing hospice care in this country," Dole said.

The Dole measure signed by the President this week cited hospice as "a humanitarian way for terminally ill patients to approach the end of their lives in relative comfort with appropriate, competent, and compassionate care in an environment of personal individuality and dignity."

The Presidential proclamation calls on all government agencies, the medical community, appropriate private organizations and the public to encourage national recognition and support for hospice care.