

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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DOLE LAUNCHES STATEWIDE "CHILD SAFETY DAY" PROGRAMS CRACKDOWN ON CHILD KIDNAPPING INCLUDES TOLL FREE "800" NUMBER

WASHINGTON -- Kansas Senator Bob Dole today announced that a series of "Child Safety Days" will be held in communities throughout Kansas. The purpose of the Dole-sponsored educational sessions is to collect information on local children that will help law enforcement authorities to better locate and identify missing kids. Also, information on the special protection needs of disabled children will be available at the safety days.

Kansas community leaders are now organizing local "Child Safety Days" to be held in shopping centers, schools, or business establishments. Volunteers help parents record height, weight, and distinguishing characteristics of their children. Volunteer dentists prepare dental charts for each child. Law enforcement officials and trained assistants fingerprint children. The information is placed in a kit to be given to parents. The packet is important in the event a child is missing or found injured.

Cosponsors with Senator Dole have begun plans for their "Child Safety Day" in towns and cities such as Newton, Syracuse, Ft. Scott, Topeka, Hutchinson, Wichita, and Kansas City. Instructions and suggestions are available through Senator Dole from ACTION, the National Volunteer Agency. Highly successful programs conducted in six locations nationwide were used as models for Kansas.

KANSAS SUCCESSES

In Ulysses, Mrs. Willynda Carpenter, chairman of the Grant County Republican Women, brought together city officials and representatives of the schools, the county, and service organizations for a "Child Safety Day" on Saturday, September 8, 1984. Large turnouts were also reported by Mrs. Teresa Payne for the programs she organized in nearby Plains, Meade and Fowler on successive Saturdays.

"I expect to see dates announced for spring or early summer by other communities as plans materialize. I am anxious to offer the opportunity to every child in Kansas," said Senator Dole. "Prevention is the key. We can work together to alert children to potential dangers."

Those interested in starting or participating in a local "Child Safety Day" should contact Senator Dole for assistance and instructions. A minimum lead time of 10 weeks is recommended.

(MORE)

"I am particularly pleased to announce publication of a special brochure entitled "Protect Your Disabled Child," said Senator Dole. George A. Conn, Commissioner, Rehabilitation Services Administration, U.S. Department of Education, has published a series of tips for parents which are adapted to the special needs of disabled children. Parents or organizations are welcome to contact Senator Dole for copies.

Meanwhile, at the Washington headquarters of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, families may call in toll-free from 9 a.m. to midnight at 1-800-843-5678 to report a missing child. Trained operators work at computer terminals from a 60-item questionnaire. The information gathered by this federally funded office will be shared with state and local officials.