

## News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### STATEMENT OF SENATE MAJORITY LEADER BOB DOLE DOLE TO BRING UP CONSENSUS DRUG PACKAGE

LATER TODAY, IT IS MY INTENTION TO BRING UP CONSENSUS LEGISLATION DESIGNED TO CRACK DOWN ON OUR NATIONAL TRAGEDY OF DRUG ABUSE. IT IS SWEEPING, COMPREHENSIVE LEGISLATION THAT TAKES A TOUGH BUT FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE APPROACH TO THE DRUG CRISIS. AS I'VE SAID BEFORE, IT MAY NOT BE PERFECT, BUT AMERICA SIMPLY CAN'T WAIT FOR THE PERFECT SOLUTION. IT WANTS ACTION -- NOT POSTURING.

LESS THAN TWO WEEKS AGO, THE HOUSE PASSED ITS PROPOSAL -- A SOMEWHAT EXPENSIVE AND DISJOINTED DRUG BILL. A FEW DAYS LATER, THE PRESIDENT SENT TO US HIS COMPREHENSIVE "DRUG FREE AMERICA ACT". SENATE DEMOCRATS OFFERED A PLAN, AS DID SENATE REPUBLICANS.

IN MY VIEW, THE DRUG PROBLEM CAN ONLY BE SOLVED BY A FULL-SCALE, BIPARTISAN ATTACK. THAT'S WHY WE LOOKED CAREFULLY AT ALL PROPOSALS AND THEN DIVIDED NEGOTIATORS INTO FIVE BIPARTISAN WORKING GROUPS:

- EDUCATION, PREVENTION AND TREATMENT
- JUDICIARY AND JUSTICE RELATED ISSUES
- INTERDICTION OF SUPPLY
- INTERNATIONAL ISSUES
- LEADERSHIP ISSUES AND FLOOR AMENDMENTS

THE INITIAL MEETING WAS HELD LAST FRIDAY AFTERNOON, AND CONSENSUS ON THE VAST MAJORITY OF A NEW PACKAGE WAS REACHED BY LAST NIGHT. A FEW MATTERS REMAIN TO BE WORKED OUT, AND I KNOW MORE MEETINGS WILL BEGIN IN THE NEXT FEW MINUTES.

(MORE)

WE THINK MOST, IF NOT ALL SENATORS CAN AGREE TO COSPONSOR AND WHOLEHEARTEDLY SUPPORT THE PACKAGE AT THE OUTSET. HOWEVER, AS WITH ANY COMPREHENSIVE PACKAGE, SOME MAJOR ISSUES MUST BE DECIDED ON THE SENATE FLOOR. AT LEAST AT THIS TIME, WE HAVE NOT REACHED A COMPROMISE ON SUCH ISSUES AS THE DEATH PENALTY, THE SO-CALLED DRUG CZAR, THE EXCLUSIONARY RULE, DRUG TESTING, AND A FEW OTHERS.

THROUGH THE COURSE OF DELIBERATIONS TODAY, TOMORROW, AND POSSIBLY SATURDAY, IT IS MY HOPE THAT WE CAN RESOLVE ALL OF THE CURRENT OUTSTANDING DIFFERENCES.

I WANT TO CAUTION MY COLLEAGUES THAT THE TIME REMAINING FOR THIS CONGRESS IS SHORT. EFFORTS TO BOG THIS PACKAGE DOWN WITH AMENDMENTS WILL PROBABLY MEAN ITS DEATH, LEAVING UNANSWERED THE MANY CRIES FOR HELP FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY TO THE DRUG MENACE. THEREFORE, LET'S APPROACH THE MATTER WITH A BIPARTISAN SPIRIT, DISCUSSING YET RESOLVING OUR DIFFERENCES, AND APPROVING AN EFFECTIVE AND RESPONSIBLE DIRECTIVE AGAINST ILLEGAL DRUGS.

LATER TODAY WE WILL EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF AN AGREEMENT TO PROCEED WITH THE BILL. I ASK ALL OF MY COLLEAGUES TO HELP ME AND SENATOR BYRD IN MOVING THE PACKAGE IN A TIMELY MANNER.

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