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NEWS

U . S . SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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**DOLE AMENDMENT PROMOTES BETTER ACCESSIBILITY TO HIGHER EDUCATION
FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES;
GRANT AUTHORIZES FACULTY TRAINING**

WASHINGTON - THE UNITED STATES SENATE HAS APPROVED AN AMENDMENT SPONSORED BY KANSAS SENATOR BOB DOLE TO HELP MAKE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION MORE ACCESSIBLE TO STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES. LAST NIGHT, DURING CONSIDERATION OF THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACT, THE FULL SENATE AGREED TO THE DOLE AMENDMENT, WHICH AUTHORIZES A GRANT PROGRAM TO TRAIN POSTSECONDARY EDUCATORS IN MEETING THE NEEDS OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES. THE SENATE PASSED THE BILL TODAY. THE MEASURE WILL NOW BE SENT TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

"FOR MANY STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES, AS WITH ALL STUDENTS, A COLLEGE EDUCATION IS THE FIRST STEP TOWARDS INDEPENDENCE, A CAREER, FINANCIAL SECURITY, AND SELF-SUSTENANCE. BY CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES TO CONTINUE A PROGRAM OF EDUCATION AFTER SECONDARY SCHOOL, WE IMPROVE THE PROSPECTS FOR GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT AND INDEPENDENT LIVING," SAID DOLE.

"DESPITE THE EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONS TO EXPAND AND IMPROVE ACCESS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES, THERE REMAINS ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT. THIS FUNDING WILL ASSIST EDUCATORS AT THE COLLEGE LEVEL IN PREPARING CURRICULUM TO BE MORE ACCESSIBLE TO STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES," ADDED DOLE.

THE PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES RECEIVING HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMAS IS BELOW THE NATIONAL AVERAGE. ACCORDING TO A RECENT DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STUDY, STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES ARE LESS LIKELY TO PARTICIPATE IN POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION THAN ANY OTHER GROUP OF AMERICANS.

"THE REASONS FOR THIS ARE COMPLEX, BUT UNDOUBTEDLY, LACK OF PHYSICAL ACCESS, LACK OF NEEDED SUPPORT SERVICES, LACK OF PROPERLY TRAINED FACULTY, AND LACK OF ADEQUATE FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO COVER EXTRAORDINARY COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH HAVING A DISABILITY CONTRIBUTES TO THIS LOW PARTICIPATION RATE. WE MUST PROVIDE INCENTIVES TO MAKE POSTSECONDARY PROGRAMS ACCESSIBLE TO STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES," SAID DOLE.

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UNDER THE DEMOCRATS PLAN TO DOUBLE THE CUTS IN DEFENSE, THE CBO CLEARLY DEMONSTRATES THAT THESE LOSSES WOULD GROW DRAMATICALLY, PERHAPS AS MANY AS 1.4 MILLION JOBS WOULD DISAPPEAR BY 1997. SOME WANT TO GO EVEN FARTHER, PROPOSING TO SLASH MORE THAN \$200 BILLION OUT OF DEFENSE.

WELL, THE PRESIDENT, SECRETARY CHENEY AND GENERAL POWELL HAVE A BETTER IDEA -- THEY ARE PROPOSING A PRUDENT BUILD-DOWN OF OUR NATIONAL DEFENSE -- CONSISTENT WITH THE GREAT UNCERTAINTY THAT EXISTS IN THIS DANGEROUS WORLD. BUT THE DEMOCRATS WANT TO BURN-DOWN DEFENSE AND PLUG IT NOT INTO DEFICIT REDUCTION, BUT DEFICIT ADDITION.

ACCORDING TO THE CBO, THIS WILL TAKE A SERIOUS HUMAN TOLL. WHEN YOU CUT DEFENSE, SOMEBODY LOSES.

BUT MOST DEMOCRATS WANT IT BOTH WAYS. WHEN CONGRESSIONAL DEMANDS TO CUT THE DEFENSE BUDGET FORCE SECRETARY CHENEY TO TERMINATE HUNDREDS OF DEFENSE PROGRAMS SOME DEMOCRATS CRY FOUL. SO LETS FACE THE FACTS. SLASHING AWAY AT DEFENSE SLASHES AWAY AT PEOPLE, AT COMMUNITIES, AT OUR INDUSTRIAL BASE, AND AT OUR SECURITY. THOSE ARE THE FACTS. YOU CAN'T HAVE IT BOTH WAYS.

THE RESPONSE TO THIS CBO STUDY HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY REVEALING. I HAVE BEEN ACCUSED OF TIMING THE RELEASE OF THIS STUDY. I HAVE BEEN ACCUSED OF CAREFULLY SELECTING CASE STUDIES TO EMBARRASS DEMOCRATS. AND, I HAVE BEEN ACCUSED OF WASTING THE TAXPAYERS'S MONEY FOR WANTING TO KNOW WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO OUR ECONOMY SHOULD THE CONGRESS ADOPT THE DEMOCRATS' BUDGET PROPOSALS.

I WANT THE RECORD CLEAR ON THIS MATTER. I ASKED THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE FOR THIS STUDY IN JULY OF 1990. A COPY OF MY REQUEST HAS BEEN PLACED IN THE RECORD. THE RESULTS OF THIS ANALYSIS WEREN'T AVAILABLE TO ME UNTIL YESTERDAY.

ORIGINALLY, I HAD ASKED THE CBO TO DO THIS ANALYSIS STATE BY STATE, BUT I WAS TOLD THAT THEY COULD NOT ACCOMMODATE THAT REQUEST. INSTEAD, CBO PROPOSED TO DO CASE STUDIES OF THE ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF DEFENSE CUTS THE ON LOCAL ECONOMIES OF THEIR CHOICE. IT WAS THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE, AN ORGANIZATION OFTEN CRITICIZED BY REPUBLICANS AS BEING BIASED TOWARDS THE DEMOCRATS -- AN ORGANIZATION OFTEN DEFENDED BY DEMOCRATS AS BEING COMPLETELY NON PARTISAN AND UNBIASED -- SELECTED THE SPECIFIC CASE STUDIES -- DONE WITHOUT MY PRIOR KNOWLEDGE WITHOUT ANY SUGGESTION FROM ME OR MY STAFF. THE CBO CHOSE TO LOOK MAINE. NOW, THE LAST TIME I CHECKED SENATOR COHEN REPRESENTS MAINE AND HE'S, A REPUBLICAN, HAS A STAKE IN THIS TOO.

THE CBO ALSO LOOKED AT WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN THE COMMUNITIES SURROUNDING FORT ORD CALIFORNIA WHEN IT CLOSES. I MUST NOTE THAT CALIFORNIA HAS A REPUBLICAN SENATOR -- WHO HAPPENS TO BE UP FOR REELECTION THIS YEAR, AND A REPUBLICAN GOVERNOR. AND I MUST REMIND MY COLLEAGUES THAT FORT ORD HAD ALREADY BEEN SELECTED FOR CLOSURE LONG BEFORE I REQUESTED THIS STUDY. BUT, AGAIN, THE CBO SELECTED FORT ORD TO STUDY.

THE THIRD CASE STUDY FOCUSED ON THE LOCAL ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF DEFENSE CUT BACKS AT MCDONNELL DOUGLAS, THE LARGEST EMPLOYER IN ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI -- A STATE WITH TWO REPUBLICAN SENATORS, AND A REPUBLICAN GOVERNOR. AND, AS IN THE FIRST TWO CASES, THIS LOCATION WAS SELECTED BY CBO.

I FIND IT INTERESTING THAT THE DEMOCRATS WANT TO TALK ABOUT PEOPLE HURTING BUT REFUSE TO TALK ABOUT THE REAL PAIN THEIR RECKLESS DEFENSE CUTS WOULD CAUSE -- BILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN GNP, AND HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF JOBS.

IN MY VIEW, THE RESPONSIBLE APPROACH IS TO TAKE A CAREFUL LOOK BEFORE WE ACT. THAT IS WHY I DIRECTED THIS STUDY. I ENCOURAGE MY COLLEAGUES TO READ IT.

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