

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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DEFENSE BUILD-DOWN & JOBS

**DOLE BILL AIMS TO HELP TRANSITION FROM MILITARY TO CIVILIAN LIFE;
FOCUS ON EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES**

WASHINGTON - SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE (R-KANSAS) & SENATOR ALAN SIMPSON (R-WYOMING) TODAY INTRODUCED LEGISLATION TO IMPROVE EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS FOR MEN & WOMEN IN UNIFORM AFFECTED BY PROJECTED DEFENSE MANPOWER REDUCTIONS.

TODAY ON BEHALF OF MYSELF AND MY DISTINGUISHED COLLEAGUE -- SENATOR SIMPSON, I AM INTRODUCING A BILL TO IMPROVE VETERANS BENEFITS IN EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS. THIS VETERANS BILL WILL FOCUS ON THE AMERICANS MOST AFFECTED BY THE PROJECTED DEFENSE MANPOWER REDUCTIONS. I AM ESPECIALLY PLEASED THAT AFTER CONSULTATION WITH REPRESENTATIVE MONTGOMERY, HE WILL BE INTRODUCING A COMPANION MEASURE OF THIS BILL IN THE HOUSE.

THIS LEGISLATION IS A COMPREHENSIVE BILL DESIGNED TO AFFORD A WIDE RANGE OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR VETERANS -- IT WILL INCREASE THE MONTGOMERY GI BILL BENEFITS TO THOSE WHO NEED IT NOW -- IT WILL INCREASE THE TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR THOSE WHO WILL SOON BE IN THE CIVILIAN JOB MARKET -- IT WILL CREATE A NEW VETERANS JOB TRAINING ACT, AND GIVE PREFERENCE TO VETERANS IN THE JOB TRAINING PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM -- AND IT WILL ALLOW QUALIFIED VETERANS A GREATER OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE A HOME.

THE ALL VOLUNTEER FORCE

SINCE 1973, THE UNITED STATES ARMED SERVICES HAS BEEN AN ALL VOLUNTEER FORCE. ALL AGREE THAT THE QUALITY OF THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO MAKE UP THIS FORCE IS AS HIGH AS OUR NATION HAS EVER SEEN. THEIR QUALITY, AND THEIR SACRIFICE WAS A MAJOR FACTOR IN OUR VICTORY IN THE COLD WAR. IT CAN EVEN BE ARGUED THAT THEIR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE OF DUTY HAS NOW ENDED THEIR CAREERS. FOR WITH THE END OF THE COLD WAR, THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PROJECTS A MANPOWER REDUCTION OF OVER TWENTY PERCENT THROUGH 1995. MANY OF THESE MEN AND WOMEN WILL BE INVOLUNTARILY SEPARATED FROM THE CAREERS THEY HAVE CHOSEN. THEY WILL NOT GET THE BENEFITS OF A 20 YEAR CAREER RETIREE. THE REDUCTIONS WILL BE ESPECIALLY HARD ON THOSE WHO HAVE GIVEN 10 TO 15 YEARS OF THEIR LIVES TO OUR NATION. I BELIEVE THAT IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT THE UNITED STATES MILITARY HAS A HIGHER PROPORTION OF MINORITIES AND WOMEN IN MANAGEMENT POSITIONS THEN ANY OTHER LARGE ORGANIZATION IN THE NATION, AND THE PROJECTED REDUCTIONS WILL SHRINK OPPORTUNITIES FOR THEM SIGNIFICANTLY.

(MORE)

PRIVATE SECTOR EMPLOYMENT

IN MY VIEW, IT IS IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST THAT THESE MEN AND WOMEN USE THEIR TALENTS AND LEADERSHIP SKILLS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR -- IT IS IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST THAT THESE DISCIPLINED, RESPONSIBLE TECHNICIANS AND MANAGERS BE PROVIDED WITH THE OPPORTUNITY FOR PRIVATE SECTOR EMPLOYMENT AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. THESE MEN AND WOMEN ARE PRODUCERS -- THEY DON'T WANT HANDOUTS -- THEY WANT A CHANCE.

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

ONE OF THEIR TOP PRIORITIES IS EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES. THE MONTGOMERY GI BILL HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL AT FULFILLING THAT PRIORITY SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 1984. BUT WITH THE PROJECTED FORCE REDUCTIONS, MANY MEN AND WOMEN WITH FAMILIES TO SUPPORT-- WHO HAD NEVER PLANNED TO LEAVE THEIR CHOSEN CAREERS -- ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO RETURN TO SCHOOL ON THE CURRENT GI BILL. AN INCREASE IN THE MONTGOMERY GI BILL BENEFITS IS NECESSARY. THIS LEGISLATION PROVIDES THAT INCREASE IN AN AFFORDABLE MANNER.

ONE OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL FIRST-STEPS IN MOVING FROM THE MILITARY TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR HAS BEEN THE TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR ACTIVE DUTY PERSONNEL. THIS PROGRAM HELPS THOSE SOON TO LEAVE THE SERVICE WITH COUNSELING ON JOB SEARCH AND EMPLOYMENT SKILLS FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR. THIS LEGISLATION WILL EXPAND THIS PROGRAM THROUGH 1995 TO MEET THE INCREASED DEMANDS THAT THE FORCE REDUCTIONS WILL HAVE ON IT.

NEW VETERANS JOB TRAINING INITIATIVE

FOR THOSE VETERANS WHO WANT IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT, THIS LEGISLATION WILL CREATE A NEW VETERANS JOB TRAINING ACT AND GIVE VETERANS PREFERENCE IN THE JOB TRAINING PARTNERSHIP ACT. THESE PROGRAMS GIVE EMPLOYERS INCENTIVES TO HIRE VETERANS. THEY WILL OPEN OPPORTUNITIES FOR VETERANS TO RECEIVE JOB TRAINING AS THEY TRANSITION THEIR MILITARY EXPERTISE INTO THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

HOME OWNERSHIP

FINALLY, MANY VETERANS ARE RETURNING FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD -- THEY NEVER HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO OWN THEIR OWN HOMES. THIS LEGISLATION WILL WAIVE THE VA HOME LOAN ORIGINATION FEE TO QUALIFIED VETERANS INVOLUNTARILY SEPARATED FROM ACTIVE DUTY.

IT IS VITAL TO REMEMBER THAT BEFORE THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE ARMED SERVICES CAN HAVE A CHANCE IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, WE MUST HAVE A STRONG ECONOMY. ALL LEGISLATION MUST OFFER OPPORTUNITIES THAT ARE WITHIN THE FISCAL CONSTRAINTS THAT WE FACE TODAY. IN MY VIEW, THIS BILL MEETS THAT CRITERIA -- IT IS NECESSARY, IT IS FEASIBLE, AND IT IS AFFORDABLE.

OUR NATION FACES A FUTURE OF DYNAMIC CHANGE DOMESTICALLY AND GREAT CHALLENGES INTERNATIONALLY. I BELIEVE THAT VETERANS HAVE MUCH TO OFFER THIS FUTURE. FISCALLY SOUND PROGRAMS ESTABLISHED NOW WILL ENSURE THAT THE MEN AND WOMEN OF OUR NATION'S ARMED SERVICES CONTRIBUTE TO BUILDING A BETTER NATION WITH THE SAME PATRIOTISM AND SPIRIT THAT THEY GAVE IN DEFENDING IT.

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