

Bob Dole



NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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HEALTH CARE

REPUBLICAN REFORM PACKAGE READY TO GO, DEMOCRAT DISARRAY AND PARTISANSHIP STANDING IN THE WAY

WASHINGTON - FOLLOWING ARE REMARKS OF SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE (R-KS) AT A PRESS CONFERENCE HELD TODAY WITH MEMBERS OF THE SENATE REPUBLICAN TASK FORCE ON HEALTH CARE.

WE'VE SEEN A LOT OF FINGERPOINTING LATELY ABOUT HEALTH CARE. AS FAR AS WE'RE CONCERNED, IMPROVING ACCESS TO QUALITY, AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE IS THE NUMBER ONE PRIORITY OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE -- AND WE HAVE THE REFORM LEGISLATION TO BACK IT UP. REGRETTABLY, THE NUMBER ONE PRIORITY OF THE DEMOCRAT CONGRESSIONAL MAJORITY AND BILL CLINTON IS TO GIVE GEORGE BUSH A SPLITTING HEADACHE, AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE NO REFORM.

AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO SUE THE DEMOCRAT CONGRESSIONAL MAJORITY FOR LEGISLATIVE MALPRACTICE. BILL CLINTON'S ALLIES HAVE BLOCKED THE PRESIDENT'S HEALTH CARE INITIATIVES FOR ONE REASON, AND ONE REASON ONLY -- POLITICS. IF THE DEMOCRATS ARE SO SERIOUS ABOUT HEALTH CARE, PERHAPS THEY SHOULD HEAL THE WOUNDS IN THEIR OWN PARTY, WHICH CAN'T GET BEHIND ANY ONE PROGRAM.

WE ARE HERE TO ISSUE A CHALLENGE TO OUR DEMOCRAT COLLEAGUES: IF THE DEMOCRATS CAN AGREE ON A HEALTH CARE BILL, LET'S BRING IT TO THE FLOOR AND START THE REAL DEBATE. THEN, WE'LL LET THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DECIDE IF THEY WANT THE FREE-MARKET REFORMS SUPPORTED BY PRESIDENT BUSH AND SENATE REPUBLICANS, OR THE BUREAUCRATIC, BIG TAX, ANTI-JOBS MANDATE APPROACH THAT THE DEMOCRATS ARE SO EXCITED ABOUT.

WE BELIEVE IN SEVERAL FUNDAMENTAL REFORMS TO IMPROVE AMERICAN'S HEALTH CARE SYSTEM:

- ◆ WE MUST STOP "JOB LOCK," MAKING PORTABLE, PRIVATE INSURANCE COVERAGE AVAILABLE TO EVERYONE, INSTEAD OF PUTTING MORE PEOPLE INTO THE GOVERNMENT'S BUDGET-BUSTING PROGRAMS;
- ◆ WE MUST REDUCE COSTS BY ATTACKING THE UNDERLYING CAUSES OF HEALTH CARE INFLATION, INSTEAD OF GIVING GOVERNMENT THE POWER TO RATION YOUR HEALTH CARE OR TELL YOUR DOCTOR WHAT HE OR SHE CAN PRESCRIBE FOR YOU;
- ◆ WE MUST ELIMINATE UNNECESSARY PAPERWORK BY FORCING INSURANCE COMPANIES, HOSPITALS AND DOCTORS TO USE THE SAME FORM;
- ◆ WE MUST IMPROVE PRIVATE INSURANCE FOR LONG-TERM CARE;
- ◆ WE MUST ENACT A NEW MEDICAL LIABILITY REFORM LAW TO REDUCE COSTS, TO GET LAWYERS OUT OF THE MIDDLE, AND TO ELIMINATE "DEFENSIVE" MEDICINE AND UNNECESSARY TESTING;
- ◆ AND WE MUST CRACK DOWN ON FRAUDULENT PHYSICIAN AND HOSPITAL CLAIMS.

MEANWHILE, BILL CLINTON'S HEALTH CARE PLAN WILL SCAR THE AMERICAN ECONOMY FOR LIFE. IT WILL PUT 700,000 AMERICANS OUT OF WORK, ENDANGER 9 MILLION MORE JOBS, AND WITH ITS BIG PAYROLL TAXES, PUT AMERICAN SMALL BUSINESS ON THE CRITICAL LIST.

WE STAND READY TO GIVE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THE REFORM THEY WANT. WE HOPE OUR DEMOCRAT COLLEAGUES ARE READY TO JOIN US.

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