

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FAMILY LEAVE VETO

S.5: A ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL MANDATE; PRESIDENT'S PLAN PROVIDES FLEXIBILITY HELPS MORE BUSINESSES, WORKERS

WASHINGTON - SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE TODAY MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT PRIOR TO THE VOTE TO OVERRIDE THE PRESIDENT'S VETO OF S.5, THE FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE BILL.

S. 5: POLITICALLY MOTIVATED

IT'S UNFORTUNATE THAT THE DEMOCRAT-CONTROLLED CONGRESS CONTINUES TO PURSUE ITS POLITICS AS USUAL AGENDA -- EVEN WHEN THE ISSUES ARE AS IMPORTANT AS FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE LEGISLATION.

IT'S WORTH NOTING THAT THIS LEGISLATION PASSED THE SENATE ON OCTOBER 2, 1991, WITH ACTION IN THE HOUSE ONLY A FEW WEEKS LATER. AND YET IN THE YEAR THAT HAS PASSED SINCE THAT TIME, A CONFERENCE -- LASTING A FEW MINUTES -- WASN'T HELD UNTIL AUGUST AND THE BILL WASN'T SENT TO THE PRESIDENT UNTIL THE HEIGHT OF THE ELECTION SEASON. IF THIS LEGISLATION ISN'T POLITICALLY MOTIVATED, I DON'T KNOW WHAT IS.

SUPPORT FAMILY LEAVE PROGRAMS

BEFORE THIS VOTE OCCURS, IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND THE ISSUE BEFORE US.

WE ARE NOT VOTING ON WHETHER FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE IS A GOOD IDEA OR WHETHER WE SUPPORT FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE PROGRAMS. IF THAT WERE THE CASE, THE PRESIDENT WOULD NOT HAVE VETOED THIS LEGISLATION AND THIS BILL WOULD HAVE BEEN LAW A LONG TIME AGO.

WHAT WE ARE REALLY VOTING ON IS THE BEST WAY TO BRING SOCIALLY DESIRABLE PROGRAMS AND BENEFITS TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

S. 5: GOVERNMENT MANDATE

MY COLLEAGUES ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE AISLE LIKE TO MANDATE THESE BENEFITS. THEY LIKE WASHINGTON, D.C. REACHING OUT INTO EVERY COMMUNITY, EVERY OFFICE, AND EVERY FACTORY -- TELLING THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WHAT IS BEST FOR THEM. THEY BELIEVE THAT THOSE OF US IN CONGRESS ALWAYS KNOW BEST -- THAT WE KNOW IT ALL.

S. 5: A HIDDEN TAX

THE SPONSORS OF S. 5 ALSO LIKE TAXES FOR THAT IS WHAT THIS BILL AMOUNTS TO. INDEED, THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THIS BILL AND A NEW TAX ON EMPLOYERS WHICH WOULD FUND FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE BENEFITS.

THE BOTTOM LINE IN EITHER CASE IS THAT THE MONEY TO FUND THESE BENEFITS COMES OUT OF EMPLOYERS' POCKETS WHETHER IT IS A DIRECT TAX OR AN ORDER FROM WASHINGTON TO PROVIDE THESE BENEFITS.

THE ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSAL

YESTERDAY THE DISTINGUISHED SENATOR FROM IDAHO, SENATOR CRAIG, INTRODUCED THE FAMILY LEAVE TAX CREDIT ACT OF 1992 ON BEHALF OF THE ADMINISTRATION.

I AM PLEASED TO BE AN ORIGINAL COSPONSOR OF THIS IMPORTANT LEGISLATION WHICH PROVIDES THE BASIS FOR FLEXIBLE LEAVE PROGRAMS THAT WILL REACH MORE WORKERS AND MORE BUSINESSES.

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