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## HEALTH CARE REFORM

SENATE APPROVES DOLE-BACKED REFORMS TO HELP SELF-EMPLOYED,  
FARMERS & SMALL BUSINESSES GET HEALTH COVERAGE;  
PROSTATE CANCER SCREENINGS ALSO ADDED TO MEDICARE PILOT PROGRAM

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. Senate late Wednesday approved an amendment backed by Kansas Senator Bob Dole that would help self-employed individuals or those employed by small businesses gain access to health care coverage.

The bipartisan amendment boosts tax deductibility of health insurance costs for the self-employed, and creates consumer protections in the insurance marketplace to help ensure that a basic, affordable insurance package would be available to all small business owners. Many of the amendment's provisions are contained in health care reform legislation previously introduced by Senator Dole.

"Among the 37 million uninsured and underinsured Americans, many are employed by small business or are dependents of those employees," Dole said. "The insurance market reforms in this measure will improve health care insurance access for these folks. By eliminating the fear of 'job lock,' this legislation will help protect coverage for workers who change jobs. This commonsense amendment is welcome news for rural America, making it easier for farmers and other self-employed Americans to afford health insurance for themselves and their families."

At the request of Senator Dole, the amendment also expands preventive care services offered under the Medicare demonstration projects to include prostate cancer screenings.

"As a strong proponent of early detection of prostate cancer, I am especially pleased that my colleagues agree with me that prostate cancer screenings are a valuable addition to Medicare's preventive medicine program," Dole added.

The amendment was adopted as part of the 1993 tax bill currently under debate in the Senate.

(for summary of amendment's major provisions, see attachment)

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