

**Bob Dole**



**NEWS**

**U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS**

**FROM:**

**SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **AIDS-INFECTED ALIENS**

**DOLE TO SHALALA: RESIST EXPLOSIVE POLICY CHANGE;**  
**PROPOSED SHIFT RAISES SERIOUS QUESTIONS;**  
**TAXPAYERS' FINANCIAL & PHYSICAL HEALTH MUST BE PROTECTED**

WASHINGTON -- Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole (R-Kansas) today sent the following letter to Secretary of Health & Human Services Donna Shalala regarding the Clinton Administration's proposed change in the policy generally barring aliens infected with the AIDS virus from entering the United States:

Dear Secretary Shalala:

You have indicated that the Clinton Administration is preparing an executive order to reverse the policy generally barring aliens infected with the AIDS virus from entering the United States. The prospect of such a policy shift raises several troubling questions. These questions include but are not limited to:

Will people with the most advanced forms of AIDS be admitted? Who will care for these people should their physical condition worsen? Would these emigres be returned to their home country, or would taxpayers be forced to pay the astronomical cost of treatment for these patients, in effect establishing "health care asylum" in America? Will these AIDS patients add to the strain on our already overburdened health care system?

Is it wise to admit people to this country who may not be familiar with their responsibility to prevent the spread of AIDS? On top of the billions of dollars we have spent on AIDS research, our nation has invested untold millions of dollars to educate the public about the AIDS virus. Would the American taxpayer have to pay to educate these emigres, or are we willing to take our chances that these individuals will act responsibly? Would we be assured that none of these infected aliens had histories of sex crimes?

When America has faced a public health crisis, we have traditionally acted to limit cases of the infectious disease contributing to the threat. It is the responsibility of the U.S. Government to protect the well-being of our nation's people. While I realize some fears about AIDS are unfounded, I fail to see how bringing more people infected with AIDS into America will in any way contribute to the health and safety of the American public. It seems to me we have more than enough health care problems without adding to the crisis. The medical experts at the 300,000 member American Medical Association also oppose changing this policy.

In addition, it appears the current policy provision allowing infected aliens waivers for short-term visits for educational and humanitarian purposes is reasonable and adequate.

Unless you believe we have the AIDS crisis under control, I would advise you to resist this potentially explosive policy change. Furthermore, unless questions like those above can be adequately addressed, an executive order overturning current policy would likely precipitate Congressional action to safeguard the financial and physical health of the American taxpayer.

Sincerely,  
BOB DOLE

cc: The Honorable Stuart Gerson, Acting Attorney General

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