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ILLEGAL ALIENS

SENATE PASSES DOLE/HUTCHISON AMENDMENT TO REIMBURSE STATES FOR COST OF INCARCERATING ILLEGAL ALIENS

WASHINGTON - Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole and Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX) today proposed an amendment to provide \$350 million to reimburse states for the costs of incarcerating illegal aliens. The funding must come from the more than \$2 billion appropriated for U.N. activities. After a motion to table was defeated 44-52, the U.S. Senate unanimously adopted the amendment to the 1995 Commerce, Justice, State, and Judiciary. Senator Dole's statement follows:

"This is a sound amendment. It is a responsible amendment. It fully funds an administration request of \$350 million, which is not funded directly in the bill. There can be little doubt that the needs are great.

"The administration's official communication on this legislation says "the Senate is urged to support the separate request for the State Criminal Aliens Assistance Program to ensure that states most affected by the cost of incarcerating criminal aliens receive as much as possible of the \$350 million in requested federal assistance." That is exactly what this amendment does.

"The administration may not like the source of this transfer -- the more than \$2 billion for the United Nations in this legislation. Two billion dollars for what we all agree is a bloated and unaccountable bureaucracy may be acceptable in a time with no budget constraints. But when vital programs like federal reimbursement for illegal aliens' imprisonment are not funded, we need to make tough choices.

"In my view, we should support the states that are incurring costs. The following organizations have endorsed full funding for this program: the National Governors' Association, the National Council of State Legislatures, the National Association of Counties, the National Association of State Budget Officers, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the California Police Chiefs Association, and the California District Attorneys' Association."