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NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Wednesday, September 28, 1994 Contact: Clarkson Hine (202) 224-5358

DOLE PROPOSAL FOR CHILD NUTRITION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES WINS FINAL SENATE APPROVAL

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Senate Tuesday night approved \$500,000 in state grants proposed by Senator Bob Dole to fund child nutrition programs for students with disabilities. The funding was included in the 1995 Agriculture Appropriations Bill which now heads to the President's desk to be signed into law.

"I am concerned that children with disabilities who are not able to participate in the school lunch programs won't get the education they deserve," Dole said.

"This pilot program can raise awareness that the special dietary needs of many children with disabilities are not being met in many instances," Dole added. "It's the first step towards including these children in the school lunch program."

The Better Nutrition and Health for Children Act of 1994 requires the USDA to assist schools and other institutions in accommodating children with disabilities. The Act authorizes state grants to cover nonrecurring costs associated with accommodating the dietary requirements of special needs children. The grants would be awarded on a competitive basis to purchase special food and preparation equipment or to provide training and educational materials.