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PENSION REFORM

STATEMENT OF SENATE MAJORITY LEADER BOB DOLE

MEMPHIS, TN -- Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole today issued the following statement regarding President Clinton's announcement on pension reform:

"It's a shame that President Clinton today is trying to take credit for true pension reform by putting forth the same proposals that he has 'unveiled' at least twice before. The fact is that these 'new' reforms are nothing more than repackaged Republican ideas.

"If the President is really serious about pension relief, he would have signed the Balanced Budget Act of 1995 which provided serious pension reform. The President vetoed many of these same provisions which received broad support in Congress -a new pension plan for small employers which I developed, expanded IRA coverage and increased portability, protections for state and local government employees and veterans, and proposals to streamline and simplify pension rules.

"Beyond recycling Republican ideas, the President should have taken this opportunity to instruct his Department of Labor to ban the use of Economically Targeted Investments (ETIs). The Department of Labor should be protecting our retirees' pensions -- not promoting the risky investment of hard-earned money to advance the Administration's social agenda."

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