

*Bob Dole*



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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## ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION REFORM PASSES

**97-3 VOTE SENDS STRONG MESSAGE: AMERICA WILL TAKE CONTROL OF OUR BORDERS; BILL INCLUDES KEY DOLE AMENDMENT MAKING CRIMES BY ALIENS AGAINST WOMEN & CHILDREN DEPORTABLE OFFENSES**

We have before us an issue of great national importance -- reform of this nation's laws on illegal immigration. But, while many members have worked hard to move this issue forward, let's face it: the moving force has been my colleague and friend, the Senator from Wyoming -- Senator Simpson. There are so many ways to describe how he has served America, but I believe that his work in this area will always be at the top of the list.

Illegal immigration reform is not a partisan issue. It is not a simple issue.

But make no mistake about it -- this legislation is long overdue.

### Playing by the Rules

We are a nation justly proud of our heritage. That heritage is inseparable from the human experience of millions upon millions of immigrants -- from every country on earth.

That heritage is also bound up in a reverence for the rule of law -- for playing by the rules.

The Immigration Control and Financial Responsibility Act combines both of these strands of our national character.

We cannot remain a great country and fail to control our borders.

We cannot evade one of the principal obligations of the federal government and expect the states and local communities to pick up the tab.

We cannot reward those who break our laws by picking the pockets of hardworking Americans.

In short, we are proud that our country is a nation of immigrants and a land of opportunity -- but we will insist that everyone play by the rules.

### Bill Protects Borders, Cracks Down on Criminals

The legislation before us provides for increases in the numbers of enforcement personnel and creates additional detention facilities. Perhaps most important, it provides, for the first time, some realistic hope that our border patrol can cope with the overwhelming nature of illegal immigration by increasing the numbers of agents.

The bill, however, also recognizes that fully half of the illegals currently in this country were once here legally under a visa, but then simply stayed. This is not a problem that can be addressed by fences along the border -- this is a matter of the will to enforce our laws.

Visa overstayers are here now -- when we discover who they are they should be sent on their way.

The bill also provides strong measures for perhaps the ultimate insult to our national sovereignty. This is the case when those who violate our immigration laws, then violate our criminal laws as well.

### Dole Amendment

I am particularly pleased that the Senate adopted the Dole-Coverdell amendment which closed some of the loopholes that currently exist in our deportation laws.

(more)



Under the Dole-Coverdell amendment, violations of domestic violence, stalking, child abuse laws and crimes of sexual violence have been added as deportable offenses.

It is long past time to stop the vicious acts of stalking, child abuse and sexual abuse. We cannot prevent in every case the often justified fear that too often haunts our citizens. But we can make sure that any alien that commits such an act will no longer remain within our borders.

I salute my colleagues who have worked so hard on this legislation. They have rendered America a great service, and it is my hope that a strong, bi-partisan vote in favor of this bill will send a message that America will no longer stand by passively -- we will take control of our borders. And most of all, we will ensure that no one cuts in line in front of those who play by the rules.

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