

**Bob Dole**



**NEWS**

**U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS**

**FROM:**

**SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Friday, May 3, 1996**

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## **BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT**

### **DOLE OPENS NEW EFFORT TO BOOST BALANCED BUDGET CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT;** **DIRECTS GOP COLLEAGUES TO SEEK INCREASE IN BI-PARTISAN SUPPORT**

There is perhaps no more important issue for the United States Senate than the Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution.

Last year the House of Representatives passed the Balanced Budget Amendment by more than the two-thirds vote required. We had several long weeks of debate here in the Senate before the amendment narrowly failed on a vote of 65-35 on March 2, 1995.

I continue to hope that we can resolve the Balanced Budget Amendment issue and pass it this year.

To help us get to that goal, I have asked Senators Craig, Hatch, and Domenici to sit down with colleagues on the other side of the aisle in the coming days to see where accommodation is possible on the Balanced Budget Amendment. I don't think this is a partisan issue. Many Democrats voted for the amendment last year and we'd like to have a couple more.

Several Senators who changed their votes last year talked about a "Social Security firewall." I think there are ways to add a provision to the Balanced Budget Amendment that will ensure that Social Security surpluses can never again be used to mask deficit spending.

Make no mistake, the amendment will still require that the federal budget be balanced by the year 2002. And I believe we can also require that, after a suitable phase-in, the federal budget be balanced without counting the surpluses in the Social Security trust funds.

#### **Require Balanced Budget by 2002**

I'm optimistic that we have an opportunity to pass the Balanced Budget Amendment with broad bipartisan support in the United States Senate.

Senator Simon has been a leader in this important effort from the very beginning. I've directed our side to work with the Democrats and I would hope several of those Senators who changed their votes last year can "come home again" and support the Balanced Budget Amendment as they have in the past.

It is no small accomplishment that all of us now agree that the budget should be balanced by the year 2002. That's a big change since last March. It's not just Republicans saying it now, but all of us -- from Republicans to "Blue Dog" Democrats to the President. That in itself is good news for America. Since we all agree that it should be done by the year 2002, I hope that we can pass the amendment that requires that we do it by the year 2002.

#### **Let the American People Decide**

I don't give up hope that we can finally pass the Balanced Budget Amendment and send it to the states for ratification. Remember our action here is not the end of the line. The final decision about whether or not the Balanced Budget Amendment will go into effect rests with those outside Washington. The Founding Fathers decided to give the ultimate authority over constitutional amendments to the those who are closest to the people -- the men and women who serve in state houses around the country.

Let's go through the constitutional process that our Founding Fathers so wisely set up. There's a word for that process. And that word is democracy.

No more obstacles, no more excuses. 80% Of the American people want a Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution. By passing the amendment, we can balance the budget by the year 2002. We can protect the Social Security trust funds. And we will have done the single most important thing we can do to ensure the nation's economic security and to protect the American dream for our children and grandchildren.

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**\*Remarks delivered on Senate floor, approximately 1:15 p.m.**