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LEADER SENATE MAJORITY

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NEWS

FROM:

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WELFARE & DRUG TESTING

SENATE OVERWHELMINGLY SUPPORTS DOLE POLICY ALLOWING STATES TO SANCTION WELFARE RECIPIENTS WHO TEST POSITIVE FOR DRUGS

WASHINGTON - By a vote of 92-8, the U.S. Senate today approved a Sense of the Congress amendment to the budget resolution that states should be allowed to require welfare recipients to stay drug free as a condition of receiving welfare benefits from the taxpayers. The amendment, sponsored by Senator Dole and Senator John Ashcroft (R-MO), reads: "In recognition of the fact that American workers are required to be drug-free in the workplace, it is the sense of the Congress that this concurrent resolution on the budget assumes that the States may require welfare recipients to be drug-free as a condition for receiving such benefits and that random drug testing may be used to enforce such requirements."

Senator Dole's statement follows:

"I am pleased the Senate has overwhelmingly lined up behind my proposal to allow states to sanction welfare recipients who test positive for drugs. Basic compassion and common sense dictate that the government must stop being the 'enabler' of those who abuse drugs."