

NEWS RELEASE FROM CONGRESSMAN BOB DOLE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 24, 1962

Cong. Bob Dole (R., Kansas) in his regular Newsletter to constituents stated, "There is broad interest today in a federally-assisted program of medical care for the Nation's elderly people, however the King-Anderson Bill, the Administration measure, would finance a compulsory 'medicare' program through Social Security taxes."

In discussing the King-Anderson bill, Dole stated:

"Many believe, for example, that the Administration program would cover all elderly people. The truth is that it would provide no protection whatsoever to 4.5 million older persons who are not included in the Social Security program.

"The King-Anderson Bill is not a true medical care program. It would not, for example, cover the costs of a doctor's services, whether at home, in an office or in a hospital. It would not cover surgical or dental fees. It would not pay for medicines used outside a hospital or nursing home. It would not cover the cost of preventive medicines.

"In short, it would be necessary for a patient to be admitted to a hospital or a nursing home before receiving any benefits under the Administration plan. Even if this requirement were met, the proposed program would not cover all hospital costs. The patient would be required to pay \$10 for each of the first nine days of hospitalization. Moreover, the patient would be required to pay the first \$20 of costs for diagnosis, without the privilege of selecting the doctor who would perform such diagnosis."

"Some of the things the bill would accomplish were as alarming as what it would not do," Cong. Dole indicated. "While it would not protect elderly people presently excluded from the Social Security program, it would provide coverage for many people now under Social Security who are both willing and able to meet the costs of their own medical needs. It could, for instance, cover a millionaire but not a \$50-a-month pensioner. It would require everyone under Social Security, including the lowest income groups, to pay an increasing rate of taxes. It would largely wipe out the progress which has been made in private health insurance programs which now protect 9 million elderly persons. It would certainly tend to retard and restrict the future development of medical science in the United States where we now have the highest standard of excellence in the world.

"Moreover, the proposed program would almost certainly produce a new federal bureaucracy with authority to police, regulate and control the administration of hospitals and, perhaps eventually, the practice of medicine within the United States. The cost of the plan, when weighed against the protection it would provide, is enormous, more than \$1 billion during the first year and growing to an estimated \$5 billion annual outlay within 20 years. It discriminates against all of the Nation's younger people and against many of the older citizens who would be excluded from its limited benefits.

"No one should go without necessary medical care, regardless of age, The Administration 'medicare' proposal fails miserably to meet the genuine problem of medical needs in the 1960's," Dole concluded.