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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WASHINGTON --- Senator Bob Dole today called attention to progress being made toward eliminating barriers to the physically handicapped in a statement released in observance of National Awareness Week, June 30 through July 5.

"As one senator who has supported efforts to improve life for the handicapped, I am greatly encouraged by the progress being made toward reducing architectural and transportation barriers," Dole said.

"Last week I had the pleasure of meeting with Ms. Jill Kimmont, who along with Roy Campanella, is national co-chairperson of Awareness Week. As many already know, she is the subject of a movie, "The Other Side of the Mountain," and of a book, The Long Way Up. While her career as one of America's finest skiers was halted by an accident in 1955, she has not allowed this to diminish her accomplishments in life. Her spirit and achievements typify those of thousands of others who are physically handicapped but making important contributions to society, including many Kansans.

"Many Kansans have been quite active in the observation of Awareness Week and in improving life for the handicapped, and they deserve special recognition from all of us during this week.

"We still have a great deal of work to do in achieving a barrier-free environment for handicapped people. However, I am greatly encouraged by the efforts I see at this time.

"In addition to the many special activities during Awareness Week, there are currently programs at local, state, and federal levels---both government and private---to achieve a barrier-free environment.

"I am firmly convinced that these efforts will ultimately pay rich dividends from the increased productivity and accomplishments of handicapped people."