

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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ADMINISTRATION'S HOSPITAL COST CONTAINMENT BILL APPARENTLY DEAD

WASHINGTON-- Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas) said today "It's very doubtful the Congress will enact the Administration's Hospital Cost Containment Bill during this session."

Dole made his comment after the Senate Finance Committee voted 11-9 in favor of Dole's motion to table an amendment by Senator Gaylord Nelson (D.-Wisconsin) which essentially embodied the Administration's bill.

"I think what we've seen is a victory of common sense over misguided regulation. The Administration's plan was another misguided attempt by HEW to reach out and control 6,000 hospitals in this country. It seems to me it's not enough to castigate the hospitals," Dole said, adding that the bill would have "triggered a rationing of health care."

Dole Alternative

Senator Dole's alternative, the Medicaid-Medicare Reimbursement Reform Bill (S. 505) was favorably reported out of the Finance Committee today.

"This reform package will do much to streamline the reimbursement process, one of the major problems facing hospitals and a major contributor to their financial woes," Dole said. "It is my hope that this measure will be enacted by the full Senate."