

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE BILL WOULD CORRECT ANNUITIES INEQUITY FOR FEDERAL OFFICERS AND FIREFIGHTERS

WASHINGTON -- Senator Bob Dole, R.-Kans., has introduced legislation in this session of Congress that would extend retirement compensation to federal law enforcement and fire-fighting personnel with at least five years of service.

This bill would eliminate an inequity resulting from legislation passed into law four years ago which provides similar compensation to certain federal employees with twenty years of service.

"Under current law," said Senator Dole, "employees who have performed 'hazardous duties' for fewer than twenty years are penalized merely because they fail to reach the magic benefit line. Even though they were exposed to the same perils, and employed in the same high risk endeavors for our nation, they receive no recognition if they choose or are compelled to leave their job one day before their twenty years are up."

In addition to eliminating the compensation inequity, Dole said that this bill would encourage continued employment of qualified and experienced personnel.

"Too often, a firefighter or law enforcement officer who has put in perhaps ten years of service and decides that it is not in his own or his family's best interest to continue for another ten years, would have just as much motivation to go into private industry or another government agency," said Dole. "I think we could have a much more dedicated, effective and inspired contingent of federal officers if they knew they could transfer at any time from a hazardous position and still receive full credit in retirement compensation."

The Dole proposal, S.84, has been endorsed by the International Association of Chiefs of Police, and praised by the Federal Criminal Investigators Association, the National Treasury Employees Union, and the Society of Former Special Agents of the FBI.