

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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STATEMENT OF SENATOR BOB DOLE
SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE HEARING: HEALTH BENEFITS FOR THE UNEMPLOYED

I AM PLEASED TO BE ABLE TO WELCOME MR. STOCKMAN WHO COMES BEFORE US TODAY, AT OUR REQUEST, TO SHARE THE POSITION OF THE ADMINISTRATION ON HOW WE MIGHT PROVIDE HEALTH BENEFITS TO THOSE WHO ARE UNEMPLOYED. WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR HIS ASSISTANCE, AND THE WILLINGNESS OF THE ADMINISTRATION TO ADDRESS THIS IMPORTANT ISSUE. THEY HAVE COMMITTED A GREAT DEAL OF TIME OVER THE LAST FEW WEEKS TO EXAMINING VARIOUS OPTIONS, AND COME BEFORE US TODAY WITH WHAT I BELIEVE TO BE VERY USEFUL INFORMATION.

AS I POINTED OUT AT THE OUTSET OF OUR HEARINGS LAST WEEK, WE ARE NOT SURE THAT OUR PROPOSAL IS THE ONLY OPTION AND WE ARE ANXIOUS TO HAVE SUGGESTIONS ON HOW WE MIGHT CHANGE IT. LAST WEEK WE HEARD FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF BUSINESS, LABOR, COUNTY GOVERNMENTS, AND CONSUMERS. THEIR IMPRESSIONS WERE VARIED AND THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS MIXED. ALL OF WHICH WILL BE VERY HELPFUL TO US. TODAY'S HEARING WILL PROVIDE US A FURTHER OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE OTHER POSSIBILITIES. OUR INTEREST IS IN ACCOMMODATING THOSE WITH DIFFERENT OPINIONS SO WE MIGHT REACH SOME RESOLUTION ON THE PROBLEM BEFORE US.

AS WE HEARD LAST WEEK, THERE ARE THOSE WHO ARE NOT RECEIVING NEEDED CARE, AS A RESULT OF LOSS OF HEALTH COVERAGE. AND WHILE VOLUNTARY EFFORTS ON THE PART OF PHYSICIANS, HOSPITALS, AND OTHERS IN THIS COUNTRY ARE IMPORTANT, THEY ARE SIMPLY NOT ENOUGH.

I'M INTERESTED IN REACHING A CONSENSUS THAT MAKES SENSE. HEARING FROM THE ADMINISTRATION WILL HELP US IN THIS EFFORT.