

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

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CONTACT: SCOTT RICHARDSON
202/224-6521

DOLE MOVES TO AVOID FOOD STAMP CRISIS FOR POOR AND ELDERLY CITIZENS

WASHINGTON -- Kansas Senator Bob Dole, Chairman of the Nutrition Subcommittee, today announced that he will act to insure that an impending money crisis for the Food Stamp Program is avoided.

In a letter to Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Mark Hatfield, Dole today recommended that funding for the Food Stamp Program be separated from the Supplemental Appropriations Bill and passed prior to any action on the larger measure.

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Agriculture John Bode today appeared before the Senate Nutrition Subcommittee and said that the Reagan Administration would support Dole's proposal. The USDA is required by law to reduce benefits when appropriations will be insufficient to provide full funding.

"The Food Stamp Program has often come close to funding deadlines, but never this close," said Dole. "The Administration has made it clear that the President is aware of the problem, and it is necessary that Congress act quickly so that low-income Americans who depend on Food Stamps will not be unnecessarily frightened.

"Congress must show that it can be responsive to the needs of our low-income citizens, especially the elderly, who are particularly vulnerable in this kind of impending crisis."

The Supplemental measure contains the necessary \$1.2 billion to carry the Food Stamp Program through the fiscal year.