

News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



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## DOLE HEARING TO EXAMINE FEDERAL IDENTIFICATION FRAUD

WASHINGTON -- Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kan.) announced today that he will chair a Judiciary Subcommittee hearing tomorrow to examine fraud against the government as a result of the incompatibility of federal identification systems. The hearing, held jointly by the Subcommittee on Courts and the Subcommittee on Criminal Laws, will begin at 10:00am, in room 385 of the Russell Senate Office Building. Dole, who serves as Chairman of the Courts Subcommittee, is introducing the Federal Identification Systems Anti-Fraud Act of 1983 today on the Senate floor.

"Today, fraud perpetrated by those who are able to manipulate federal identification systems is costing the taxpayers more than \$24 billion annually," said Senator Dole. "Much of this is made possible because federal agencies have incompatible systems. Important information that one agency may collect with regard to fraudulent activities of one individual using that agency's services cannot efficiently be transmitted to another agency which might also be victimized by the same person."

"The purpose of our hearing tomorrow will be to look at the scope of the problem and consider legislative proposals to eliminate duplication in federal identification systems, and encourage coordination between agencies with different systems," said Dole.

As one example, Dole cited the case of a foreign national who traveled to the United States on student visa, obtained false birth certificates in several different names from different states, and applied for government benefits under a variety of programs. Although one agency detected the fraud, other agencies were not made aware of the illegal activities because of the incompatibility of agency record systems, and the fraud against the other agencies was not stopped for some time.

Dole said that a primary concern of the hearings would be to ensure that any measure the government might undertake would not infringe on the privacy of law-abiding citizens.

"We don't want to set up some kind of unregulated, 'super computer system.' I don't believe that is the way to eliminate these abuses. But, greater coordination between agencies is needed," said Dole.

Witnesses scheduled to testify include representatives of the U.S. Department of Defense, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of State, and the Social Security Administration. The U.S. Treasury Department will be represented by four officials: John M. Walker, Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Operations; David F. Ray and Neal Findley, U.S. Secret Service; and M. Eddie Heironimus, Internal Revenue Service.