

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

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SENATE PASSES OLDER AMERICANS ACT;
DOLE INCLUDES HELP FOR THE ELDERLY

WASHINGTON - During Senate passage reauthorizing the Older Americans Act this week, Kansas Senator Bob Dole included two provisions which are designed to promote mental services for the elderly in rural areas and establish two to four research centers to develop services for the Native American elderly.

Dole's first provision authorizes a geriatric mental health training program that will be funded in next year's Labor/HHS Appropriations bill. The program would train professionals and service providers on how to best meet elderly mental health needs in rural areas. As a leader in this area of research, Kansas State University will be a strong contender for funds for this mental health service program for the elderly.

"It is important to channel mental health care services to our nation's elderly -- directly focusing resources on the elderly in our rural areas."

Dole's second provision authorizes grants to create "Resource Centers on Native American Elders." The centers will gather information, perform and disseminate research, and provide technical assistance on issues and problems affecting older Native Americans including long-term and in-home care, elder abuse, and health problems.

The grants will go to institutions of higher education that have established records in this field. The University of Kansas has been working with Haskell College and is expanding its research and services in working with the Native American elderly and will be a strong contender for a center. Funding will be appropriated for these centers next year.

"Currently there is almost no information available regarding health care services for the Native American elderly. In order to deliver the kinds of services that the Native American elderly need, we must gather the necessary information to properly intervene," said Dole.

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