

BOB DOLE  
1ST DISTRICT, KANSAS

109 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
AREA CODE 202  
225-2715

COMMITTEES:  
AGRICULTURE  
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
101 FEDERAL BUILDING  
GREAT BEND, KANSAS 67530  
AREA CODE 316

SW SPECIAL TO WEEKLIES

FOR RELEASE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 27

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, D.C. 20515**

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CONGRESSMAN BOB DOLE REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON

DRUG ABUSE CURBS NEEDED

Drug abuse continues to rear its ugly head in towns and cities across the nation.

In Topeka, the director of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation said he thinks the number of students apprehended with large amounts of marijuana should be alarming to everybody.

At the University of Iowa, pediatricians report the first documented case of a baby born with birth defects because her mother consumed LSD during pregnancy.

In Denver, a 24-year-old woman is being held by police in connection with the brutal slaying of her two-year-old son. She appeared to be under the influence of drugs.

The repercussions of these tragic events billow far beyond immediate family circles. As parents and as citizens, people everywhere are concerned about the increasing reports of drug abuse.

To preserve the strength and moral foundations of our families and our country, it seems imperative to do all we can to curb widespread misuse of dangerous drugs. Increased education and more dramatic warnings on the dangerous potential of drugs should help. Stepped-up enforcement of illegal manufacture, distribution and sale of the drugs will undoubtedly reduce available supplies. But the imposition of penalties for unauthorized use and possession also seems called for.

As I said last week in this column, I have introduced a proposal providing for penalties for unauthorized use or possession of amphetamines, barbiturates and hallucinogenic drugs and to increase penalties for their illegal manufacture and sale.

The proposal would amend the Drug Abuse Control Act, which currently provides no penalty at all for illegal use or possession and a mild penalty for manufacture, sale and distribution of the drugs.

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add 1  
Drug Abuse

Why Restrict Possession?

Why restrict possession? Penalizing unauthorized drug users will help deter consumption of dangerous drugs. It may be true that some persons will seek the thrill of the prohibited. But many more current and potential users will be encouraged to abide by law and order.

My proposal provides that any person found in possession of depressant, stimulant or hallucinogenic drugs -- such as barbiturates, amphetamines or LSD -- without a doctor's valid prescription will be subject to imprisonment of up to one year and to a fine of up to \$1000. For each subsequent offense, a person would be imprisoned up to three years and fined up to \$10,000.

For first-time offenders of illegal manufacture, sale or distribution of the drugs, the penalty would be up to three years in prison and up to \$10,000 in fines. The penalty would increase up to six years in prison and up to \$15,000 in fines for each subsequent offense.

Many physicians agree that some of the drugs, when prescribed medically, have beneficial effects. The bill I have introduced does not penalize drug use upon medical prescription.

But this country has drug abusers, and they attract still others. The situation is crucial and could be arrested considerably by making unauthorized possession of dangerous drugs a violation of the law.