

**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 3-8423

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

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FORD	MORTON	SHERMAN
GOVE	NESS	SMITH
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Following is my statement on H.R. 12555 relating to V.A. pensions and which passed unanimously in the House of Representatives on December 15. I trust you may find it of interest; and, if you should have any questions, please let me know.

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MR. DOLE. Mr. Speaker, I wholeheartedly support the bill H.R. 12555, not only because it increases the rate of non-service connected pensions, but also because it increases the overall maximum income limitations.

This bill protects every veteran, widow, and child receiving monthly VA pension benefits against reduction or termination of such benefits that might result from the social security increase passed by Congress earlier in the week.

During the opening days of the 90th Congress, I introduced a bill, H.R. 3952, to rectify an injustice affecting many, many veterans whose pensions were reduced as a result of the modest social security increase voted by the 89th Congress.

Mr. Speaker, in most instances, these veterans received a social security annuity which placed them slightly under one of the income limits established by law for entitlement to a certain rate of pension. When the social security increase, though slight, was approved, it was sufficient to put the veteran in a higher income bracket, thus reducing or terminating his payments. Though the amount varied with the individual case, I understand that each of the more than 29,000 veterans concerned lost considerably more in pension than he gained in social security.

H.R. 12555, fortunately, insures that there will be no repetition of the incidents referred to where veterans lost income by the increase voted by Congress in social security.

The bill contains several additional desirable features. It increases the maximum income limitations of all pension laws, the so-called old law as well as the new law, by \$200. It relates the amount of pension payments more closely to financial need. It increases the monthly rate of pension for more than one million veterans, widows, and children. It extends eligibility for pension to approximately 10,000 new pensioners. Most important, however, it establishes a somewhat permanent solution to this continually recurring problem for pensioners each time social security benefits are increased.