

FROM: THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN BOB DOLE  
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WASHINGTON, D.C., Feb. 26 -- Congressman Bob Dole (R-Kans.) today urged passage of his bill providing penalties for unauthorized possession, manufacture, sale and distribution of LSD and other hallucinogenic drugs, barbiturates and amphetamines.

In a statement before the House Subcommittee on Public Health and Welfare, Dole said, "The current penalty for illegal manufacture, sale and distribution of these dangerous drugs is merely a misdemeanor, while possession of LSD and other hallucinogenic drugs is no offense at all."

"We know these drugs are destructive," the Kansas Congressman said. "But present statutes send a boy to do a man's job."

Under Dole's bill, a person convicted of unauthorized possession of the dangerous drugs may be fined up to \$10,000 and jailed up to three years. The bill also provides a maximum penalty of six years in jail and \$15,000 in fines for illegal manufacture, distribution and sale of the drugs.

Noting the Johnson Administration supports similar legislation, Dole pointed out his bill provides graduated penalties for young and repeated offenders.

Explaining the Administration-supported bill makes a first-time offender under age 18 guilty of a felony, Dole said, "It is futile to convict a child of a felony for the first offense because often he does not fully realize the extent and serious nature of the crime."

The Dole bill provides that a first-time offender under age 18 would be guilty of a misdemeanor. Subsequent offenses would be considered felonies.

Dole said his bill also features graduated penalties for offenders who "persist" in illegal manufacture, sale and distribution of the drugs.