

FROM: THE OFFICE OF BOB DOLE
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WASHINGTON, D.C., Jan. 21 -- Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) today co-sponsored a bill to raise the earnings limitation test in the Social Security law.

Introduced by Sen. Birch Bayh (D-Ind.), the purpose of the bill is to permit a Social Security recipient to earn \$200 a month without loss of any benefits, Dole said. The Bayh-Dole bill, which would amend the 1967 Social Security Act, would raise the current limitation from \$1680 to \$2400 annually.

"What this means," Dole said, "is that millions of senior citizens would have a better opportunity to supplement their Social Security income and to continue their contributions to society."

"The present \$1680 level is unrealistically low," he said. "A \$2400 income limit will encourage social security beneficiaries to be more self-sufficient and to give society more benefit of their talent and experience."

Dole also pointed out other features of the bill are: for every \$2 earned between \$2400 and \$3600, \$1 in benefits would be lost, while earnings over \$3600 annually would result in \$1 lost in benefits for every \$1 earned. Currently the law provides the same reduction in benefits on an \$1680-\$2880 scale and an over \$2880 scale.

"If passed," he said, "this amendment would support the sound and just idea that those who helped build this nation have the right to live out their later years with as much dignity and independence as possible."