

FROM: THE OFFICE OF SENATOR BOB DOLE  
(R-KANS.)  
NEW SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
EXT. 6521

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WASHINGTON, D.C, Jan. 27 -- U.S. Senator Bob Dole today co-sponsored a bill to prohibit unwarranted governmental invasion of the constitutional rights and privacy of federal employees.

Introduced by Senator Sam Ervin (D-N.C.), the bill seeks to prohibit requirements that employees or applicants for federal government employment disclose race, religion or national origin, participate in outside government-sponsored activities unrelated to their work, submit to personal questions through interviews or psychological tests or support political candidates or parties, Dole said.

The bill would also make it illegal to coerce an employee to buy bonds or make charitable or political contributions or to reveal personal financial information, unless they would show a conflict of interest. In addition, the bill would create a Board on Employees' Rights to conduct hearings on reported violations of the act and permits a civil action in a federal court for violations of the act.

"Currently," Dole said, "there is no statutory basis for the preservation of these rights and liberties for those who work for their government. As the scope of federal activity continues to expand, there is a pressing need to protect the privacy of the individual employee."

"And we cannot attract qualified people into government service if the government deals with employees on the basis of suspicion or in any way, invades privacy in their thoughts, beliefs, and action or inaction in activities outside their jobs," he added.

Noting that the bill has been endorsed by most major federal employee associations and unions, civil liberties groups and bar associations, Dole added, "It aims squarely at an evil that has grown, maybe not intended, but which is frustrating the ability of the federal government to attract and hold the type of personnel that it needs."