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WASHINGTON, D.C. -- U. S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) will discuss handicapped Americans in his "maiden" or first major speech in the Senate Monday, April 14.

Dole, who suffered a serious World War II injury April 14, 1945 which hospitalized him 39 months, will discuss private and government programs for the handicapped and how they can better serve the handicapped.

"Handicapped persons represent a group which knows no racial, religious, sex or ethnic boundaries," he said. "They comprise a minority group no one joins by choice..a group whose membership is composed of infants, children, adults and the elderly."

"We have a basic commitment in our nation to assure every person has adequate opportunity to develop to his fullest capacity," he added.

"Although great strides have been made in recent years toward assisting the handicapped, we have only begun to help guarantee that each handicapped person and his family enjoy complete dignity, independence and security."

Preceding the April 14 Senate speech, Dole will host a luncheon for nearly 100 federal officials and leaders of organizations for the handicapped with Washington-based offices.

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