

FROM: THE OFFICE OF U.S. SENATOR BOB DOLE  
NEW SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510  
(202) 225-6521

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WASHINGTON, D.C., July 16 -- U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) today cosponsored a bill to allow volunteer firemen to be trained under provisions of the 1968 vocational education amendments.

The bill was introduced by U.S. Senator J. Caleb Boggs (R-Del.).

"Currently," Dole said, "interpretation of the amendments forbids use of the funds for volunteer firemen. The law permits training oriented toward preparation for gainful employment or toward consumer and homemaking education."

Pointing out there are 1.8 million volunteer firemen in the U.S. compared to 200,000 paid firemen, Dole added, "The figures speak for themselves. Proper training of volunteer firemen is absolutely mandatory. These firemen, serving their communities at little or no cost to the taxpayer, often provide the only fire and accident protection available to thousands of people in small towns."