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WASHINGTON, D.C., Sept. 18 -- U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) today urged the Veterans Administration to consider locating a 350-bed nursing home in Kansas.

Dole took the action in a letter to Veterans Administrator Don Johnson following reports that the VA plans a nursing home in Kansas, Oklahoma or Nebraska.

In the letter, Dole said, "I am certain you are well aware of the critical need for such a facility in our state and urge you to give every consideration to Kansas."

"I understand that no final decision has yet been made on the actual site, but that a decision may be expected in the very near future," he added.

Noting that the proposed facility would be included under an authorization for 2000 new nursing home beds in the U.S., Dole added, "By utilizing existing facilities or through a leasing arrangement, the federal government could create the nursing home without new construction, which is entirely consistent with the President's efforts to combat inflation."