

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C. SEPT. 24, 1969---The Kansas Congressional Delegation today urged Health, Education and Welfare Secretary Robert Finch to relax implementation of regulations which would qualify nursing homes to receive federal aid.

"We have no resistance to the intent of these standards," the delegation said. "Skilled nursing personnel and proper facilities are mandatory if we are going to insure adequate health care for all Americans. But if the regulations become effective immediately, they will not allow Kansas and about 16 other states sufficient lead time for realistic implementation."

In a letter to Finch, the delegation referred to Title 19 regulations which are expected to take effect "imminently" and upon publication in the Federal Register.

"If so, the requirements will create immediate and undue hardship to Kansas and other states in providing basic nursing care," they added.

Urging Finch's support to avoid "a possible chaotic situation," the delegation said:

"We respectfully suggest you consider amending the regulations to allow sufficient lead time consistent with federal plans filed by those states concerned to provide for compliance with the standards. Perhaps lead time on an individual state basis could better accomplish and be entirely consistent with the desired ends."

In Kansas, they pointed out only 40 of the state's 467 nursing homes could now qualify for Title 19 funds under the proposed regulations. Most current patients are Medicare-recipients and residents of the 427 homes which will not qualify for federal funds.

"Furthermore," the delegation said, "the new regulations require an additional 250 registered nurses and over 1600 licensed practical nurses in the 427 homes. The millions of dollars required and the tremendous time disadvantages are obvious."

The delegation noted Kansas needs at least 36 months to provide this additional nursing personnel, while other states may require 24 months or less.