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WASHINGTON, D.C., Nov. 19 -- U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) today termed an amendment to the Selective Service Act being considered in the Senate "the first step toward comprehensive draft reform."

The amendment -- H.R. 14001--would amend the Selective Service law to allow the President to designate the prime age group for induction. The bill supports President Nixon's proposal to abolish the requirement that the President must use the "oldest first" system for the prime age group he designates. The President supports a random selection system.

In a Senate statement, Dole said, "Many of us in Congress want to see a complete revision of the Selective Service System. However, it is clear that if we are to provide any relief this year, it must be in the form of H.R. 14001 -- a modification of one element of the system."

"About two million young men reach the age of military service each year," Dole said. "For them and their families, the draft is one of the most important factors affecting their lives."

"To date, the draft has been a source of disruption and despair to many young men. It has not assured maximum personal liberty and has not applied equally to all young men", he added. "H.R. 14001 is not a solution for all the problems of the draft. But it is a step in the direction of making our draft system more fair and impartial and more responsive to the needs of our youth and our nation."

"I urge prompt and favorable passage of this legislation," Dole said.