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FOR RELEASE TO KANSAS WIRES

WASHINGTON, D.C., Feb. 19 --- U.S. Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kans.) expressed his hope today that the 92nd Congress will be "a landmark session of cooperation and success in the attempt to solve the nation's health crisis."

Speaking from the Senate floor, the Kansas Senator said the wealthiest nation in the world should also be the healthiest. Commenting on President Nixon's Health Message to Congress, Dole said, "President Nixon proposes a health system built upon the strong points of the present health system... and proposes a system whereby the private sector will have maximum opportunity for participation."

Dole said he hoped early hearings will be held on the President's proposals so that Congress can become fully aware of their ramifications "And so, as we judge its advantages or disadvantages in the light of other proposals, we may engage in open and honest debate."