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# NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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## DOLE-SEBELIUS BILL TO AID POW FAMILIES PASSES CONGRESS

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The bill authored by Senator Bob Dole to ease the financial hardship on the families of Americans who died in captivity during the Vietnam War has received full Congressional approval. The Funeral Transportation and Living Expense Benefits Act of 1974 was introduced in the Senate by Senator Dole on Friday, March 22 and passed by unanimous vote. Congressman Keith Sebelius introduced the bill in the House where it passed unanimously today.

Recalling the government's efforts on behalf of the families of the 556 POW's who were released by Hanoi in 1973, Dole and Sebelius asked that similar courtesies be accorded the families of the servicemen whose remains are now being released by Hanoi. The bodies of 23 servicemen were released in the last two weeks, and North Vietnam acknowledges holding the remains of 32 others.

Because of the limitations in standard military regulations, the families of these men face the prospect of bearing the entire cost of traveling from their home cities to the site chosen for burial -- which in some cases would be from California to Arlington National Cemetery in Washington.

The Dole-Sebelius bill authorizes the Secretary of Defense to provide transportation and living expense benefits to families traveling to attend the funeral services of these prisoners who died while in captivity.

The Dole-Sebelius bill now goes to the White House for the President's signature.