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# NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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## DOLE SEES BREAKTHROUGH ON PROSPECTS FOR HEALTH INSURANCE ACTION IN 1974

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Calling it a "sharp departure from the previous cradle-to-grave tendencies of many Democrats on health insurance legislation," Senator Bob Dole today said he welcomed this week's introduction of a "more realistic" national health insurance proposal by Senator Kennedy (D-Mass) and Congressman Mills (D-Ark).

"Up until now," Dole said, "there has been such a wide divergence among the various health insurance proposals, that those of us on the Senate Finance Committee were growing increasingly pessimistic about the chances for significant action this year. Now that Senator Kennedy has scaled his proposal down to more realistic -- and less costly -- proportions, the chances for meaningful compromise and even for passage of a bill this year are much improved."

Dole, who sits on the Health Subcommittee of the Senate Finance Committee which has Senate jurisdiction on the issue, said that "as long as you had proposals as far apart as the Administration's, for example, which would cost an estimated \$6.5 billion in its first year, and Senator Kennedy's original proposal, with an estimated first year cost of as much as \$70 billion, the chances for early compromise were practically nil."

Dole is the cosponsor of the Senate Finance Committee's proposal on catastrophic health insurance and one other bill, the Health Care Insurance Act, the so-called "Medicredit Bill."