



# NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## DOLE CALLS FOR ACTION ON PHYSICIAN SHORTAGE PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, D.C.--In a letter today to Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare Caspar Weinberger, Senator Bob Dole expressed concern over the non-implementation of the Physician Shortage Area Scholarship Program. The program was established by a bill cosponsored by Dole in 1971. The letter was sent jointly by ten cosponsors of the bill: Senators Dole, John Tower, J. Glenn Beall, Jr., Peter Dominick, Norris Cotton, Hubert Humphrey, Strom Thurmond, Lawton Chiles, Ted Stevens, and Milton Young.

Following is the text of the letter:

The Honorable Caspar Weinberger

As you know we represent states which suffer from a critical shortage of primary care physicians as a result not only of the trend toward specialization, but also because of a severe maldistribution problem.

During 1971, we sponsored legislation to establish a physician shortage scholarship program which was incorporated into S. 934, the Health Professions Educational Assistance Amendments of 1971, and signed into law on November 18, 1971.

The Congress subsequently appropriated \$2 million for the program in the Fiscal Year 1973 Supplemental Appropriations Bill, approved July 1, 1973, and an additional \$2 million in the Fiscal Year 1974 Labor-Health, Education and Welfare Appropriations Bill, approved Dec. 18, 1973.

This program would authorize scholarships of up to \$5,000 for medical students who agree to practice primary care medicine in physician shortage areas.

We are seriously concerned today, that the Department of Health, Education and Welfare has not yet published regulations for the implementation of this program. In an effort to assure that the scholarships authorized by the Congress in 1971 will be available to medical students during the 1974-1975 school year, we trust we can depend on you to see that these regulations are promulgated in the very near future.

Senator Dole also called upon Administration officials to act on April 5, 1974. At that time he said failure to implement the program "has had far reaching adverse effects in Kansas -- where the shortage of physicians is particularly acute.

"The funds have been appropriated and willing applicants are waiting," Dole continued. "The Congress has clearly demonstrated and reaffirmed their intentions. Now it is incumbent upon the administering officials to act."