



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DOLE 'REASONABLE TIME' AMENDMENT ADOPTED, WOULD GRANT TOPEKA MORE TIME ON SCHOOL PLAN

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The Senate passed today an amendment introduced by Senator Bob Dole which is designed to give school districts under desegregation orders a "reasonable time" to develop a plan for compliance.

Dole explained that the amendment was intended specifically to help districts like Topeka USD# 501, which was given only sixty days to develop a plan to comply with Department of Health Education and Welfare guidelines.

Dole explained that such a short time period did not allow for necessary input by various community groups to be taken into account in drawing up a plan for compliance.

Dole described his amendment as "based upon the premise" that a local community which is found in violation of the law can best develop an alternative plan (of) ...compliance... but also take into consideration the transportation, safety, and educational need of students and their families", when all elements of the community are consulted.

Dole said the Federal order, and unreasonably short sixty day period for compliance "represents unnecessary and untimely use of federal force." Quoting from a recent poll of Topekans, Dole cited strong local opposition to the plan developed under HEW's imposed time constraints. The plan he said, which HEW accepted, because "it met student ratio guidelines on a strictly mathematical basis... placed the greatest hardship on minority students and families in terms of proximity to the school they would be attending."

The amendment requires that districts under order "be provided notice of the details of the violation and given a reasonable time to be determined by the Secretary, to develop a