



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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JUNE 24, 1974

MORE DOCTORS ARE NEEDED

Washington, D. C. In a statement on the Senate Floor today, Senator Bob Dole said that many areas are "desperately short of primary care physicians" and that a change in emphasis at medical teaching schools is necessary "to improve the delivery of health care".

The Senator said that medical schools have done a superb job in developing specifics necessary to cope with changing needs and in conducting research which has become the foundation for modern medical miracles.

"This work should be continued", he said, "but the education of physicians needed to meet the day-to-day needs of the sick has been relegated to a secondary role, and the family doctor is disappearing from the contemporary scene".

Senator Dole quoted from a recent study completed by the Regional Medical Advisory Council which shows that Kansas will need 348 primary care physicians by 1980 to meet the national norm. This is a factual, non-political study conducted by leading health care authorities. It shows that we have an ample supply of doctors in some fields, but are far short in others. Senator Dole said a balance should be sought to meet current needs and that future Federal funds for medical teaching facilities should be earmarked for areas which will best meet the needs of the people.

"A new and massive Federal program will not do the job", Dole said. "Neither will a giant medical bureaucracy set up at huge cost do what can better be done at the State level. Neither will unfulfilled promises by some to meet the shortages, or political propaganda intended to mislead the people of Kansas." Dole said he believes that government closest to the people is always the best, and it would be incredible to try to meet everybody's health care needs from Washington.