



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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FOR RELEASE UPON RECEIPT CONTACT: JANET ANDERSON
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WASHINGTON, D. C. -- In letters addressed to Duane McGill, Speaker of the Kansas House, and Ross Doyen, President of the Kansas Senate, Senator Bob Dole today suggested that Regional Health, Education, and Welfare Department officials may not be acting with complete authority in requesting the State Legislature to change Kansas law governing the administration of its family planning program.

In January, HEW's Regional Health Administrator told the State of Kansas that it could lose \$526,000 in Federal money unless the State statute were changed to make family planning services available to anyone, regardless of age. Currently, Kansas law limits such services to persons who are "over 18 and married or referred by a physician."

Dole said that in checking with the Director of the Office of Population Affairs in Washington, however, he was informed that the current Federal policy in these matters is to "not require any clinic to provide contraceptive services to persons who are not legally competent to consent to such services, by reason of age, under State law." "If that is true," Senator Dole said, "the Kansas statute would seem to be in total conformity with government requirements if only one word were changed, i.e., 'and married' to 'or married'."

"It appears that the real inconsistency here is not between Federal regulation and State law but rather between HEW Central and Regional office interpretation and application of the same guideline," Dole suggested. "I have written to Secretary Mathews requesting a clarification on this and have been assured of an early reply."

In that letter, Dole cautioned the HEW head that the government should not be advocating practices which violate the public policy of the respective states. He later noted that there have been claims that up to \$2 million in funding assistance and services to some 20,000 individuals would have to be curtailed unless the law is wide open, but questioned whether these were accurate.