



# NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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## DOLE PROPOSAL WOULD REQUIRE ESTIMATE OF COST TO STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

WASHINGTON, D.C.-- Senator Bob Dole today introduced a resolution which would require Congress to estimate how much it will cost state and local governments to administer programs created by federal legislation. In addition, Congress would have to project the cost of state and local matching fund requirements imposed as a condition of receiving federal programs.

"All too often, states and localities must commit substantial funds of their own to meet federal matching requirements or to administer federal programs. As a result, by the time a program is actually made available to citizens, the cost to taxpayers greatly exceeds the direct cost to the federal government alone," Dole said.

Dole's legislation would require Congressional Committees to include in each bill an estimate of the cost to state and local governments, in addition to direct federal outlays.

"Failure to fully estimate the costs -- and benefits -- imposed on state and local governments means there is an incomplete cost analysis of proposed legislation," Dole pointed out. "This of course results in distorted consideration of the proposals and possibly, misguided enactment of legislation by Congress."

Dole said the State of Kansas recognized a similar problem and corrected it when the Kansas legislature voted in 1971 to require a "local fiscal note" on any legislation it considers. This fiscal note includes an estimate of the costs that would be imposed on local governments by prospective State laws. "While these estimates are sometimes crude," the Kansas Senator said, "they serve to identify the nature of costs imposed and to notify legislators and local governments of these effects. My Resolution would do much the same at the Federal level, making federal legislation more sensitive to state and local government effects."