



# NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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## DOLE PROVISION TO AID HANDICAPPED INDIVIDUALS, APPROVED BY SENATE

WASHINGTON, D.C.--The full Senate today approved an amendment by Senator Bob Dole that would encourage businesses to remove architectural and transportation barriers which inhibit access to commercial stores and offices by handicapped persons. The amendment, part of the pending tax reform bill, also provides tax incentives to businesses to purchase the necessary equipment to enable deaf and blind persons to obtain employment in private business.

"This provision offers a unique opportunity to business who want to make their businesses accessible and equipped to hire or serve handicapped individuals, but who need a little financial incentive to do so. By offering a deduction as encouragement, I am hopeful that taxpayers will take advantage of the opportunity so that the disabled might be able to circulate within society, and become economically, socially, and culturally involved in their community," Dole said.

When Dole introduced the measure as a bill earlier this year, it received widespread bipartisan support from his colleagues. A similar bill in the House has almost 100 sponsors, and Dole's provision attracted support from handicapped interest groups. As Dole commented, previous laws have attempted to deal with the elimination of architectural and transportation barriers, but they have not been completely successful. By approaching the situation from a new angle, Dole hopes the new attempt at creating a barrier-free environment will meet with success.

The bill is attractive from a financial standpoint as well. "Although there is a slight cost factor involved, when physically handicapped persons, including those who are blind or deaf, are granted access into the mainstream of day-to-day living and the labor force, the initial cost will be offset many times over as full purchasing power and employment opportunities are realized," projected Dole. The potential of our handicapped population is only now beginning to be recognized, and Dole predicted that as barriers continue to be knocked down, handicapped persons will become recognized as leaders in all areas of our society.