

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE FIGHTS TO PRESERVE FOOD STAMP BENEFITS FOR CHILDREN IN SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, D. C. Today, Senator Bob Dole (R-Kansas) led a movement in the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry to preserve food stamp benefits for children who participate in the School Lunch Program.

"Although I remain in favor of balancing the federal budget, I do not think that savings should be achieved at the expense of people who are already hurting as a result of our run-away economy," Dole said. "The Food Stamp Program was intended to be supplemental. Benefits provided from this source have never been able to provide nutritionally adequate diets, and school lunches have always been understood to have important health and educational elements that make up for deficiencies in the Food Stamp Program."

Recognizing that some kind of compromise had to be made in order to overturn a previous committee vote on Wednesday in favor of an amendment that would eliminate the overlap of food stamp benefits with the School Lunch Program, Dole recommended a \$300 million unspecified budget cut instead, which passed. "It is difficult to comprehend what \$10 less a month per child can mean to a low-income family who earns an average gross income of \$320 per month," Dole said. "With increasing unemployment imminent, as well as no relief in sight for an uncontrollable inflation rate, I think it is unfair to decrease benefits for households whose income has risen less than 10% while inflation has skyrocketed to heights of 30%."

"Some savings are necessary to counteract the rising cost of everything we are familiar with, and all of us must sacrifice in this endeavor, but let's make sure that we ask those who are capable of making sacrifices to do so, and not those incapable of absorbing the impact of our current economic policies," Dole said. "For some people, survival itself is the key question."

"It is because our nation's fiscal resources have not been properly managed that we must even consider making such choices in attempted budget cuts," said Dole.