

BOB DOLE



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DOLE LEGISLATION WOULD SAVE FULL REVENUE SHARING PROGRAM

WASHINGTON -- Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan.) has introduced legislation to continue the full revenue sharing program for five years.

The Dole bill, introduced Thursday, would allow the states to retain their portion of revenue sharing if they elect to take an equivalent amount of specific cuts in other federal categorical aid programs. It would also enable states to retain the more flexible revenue sharing funds without causing an increase in federal spending.

Dole congratulated Senator Nancy Kassebaum (R-Kan.) for her successful effort to make room in the fiscal 1981 budget for 40 percent funding of the states' share of revenue sharing by reducing categorical grant programs.

"I share with Senator Kassebaum a concern that the revenue sharing program and the principles it exemplifies not be sacrificed because of the need for budgetary restraint," Dole said. "At the same time, we do not want to cause an increase in the deficit or in taxes. The Kassebaum amendment meets both concerns by slightly reducing a broad range of grant programs, none of which should be seriously undermined."

Dole stated that his legislation to renew revenue sharing would enable Congress to follow through on the lead made by Kassebaum.

"There are vital reasons why this alternative proposal is superior to the Administration's recommendation," he said. "The original goal of federal revenue sharing was to give state and local governments more direct control over revenues collected by the federal government & spent at the state and local levels. The Dole proposal would continue the process of improving the distribution of power and responsibility among the various levels of government. Each state would be able to decide whether particular categorical grant funding is really suited to its needs, or whether it would better serve its citizens by taking an equivalent amount of revenue sharing funds."

Dole also announced that the subcommittee on revenue sharing will hold hearings on his revenue sharing proposal on May 21 at 9:30 a.m.

"I believe this will be an excellent opportunity to consider a new and creative approach to federal aid to state and local governments," he said.