

P R E S S R E L E A S E

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UNITED STATES SENATE
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH
2227 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.

SENATORS TALMADGE AND DOLE RELEASE G.A.O. REPORT ON HOSPITAL
REGULATORY AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Senators Herman E. Talmadge (D., Ga.) and Bob Dole (R., Ks.), of the Subcommittee on Health of the Committee on Finance, today released a report prepared at their request by the U. S. General Accounting Office, pertaining to overlapping and duplicative regulatory and paperwork requirements on hospitals.

Senators Talmadge and Dole noted that in their request for this report they had been joined by Senator Sam Nunn (D., Ga.).

"We believed that it was important to determine the extent to which overlapping duplicative and out-of-date reporting requirements and inspections were being required," said Talmadge. Dole added, "Each of us is very much interested in eliminating unnecessary red tape and consolidating and coordinating Federal, State and local paperwork requirements.

"Of course we seek this objective only to the extent that proper accountability and patient health and safety are adequately safeguarded."

Dole and Talmadge noted their pleasure "that progress is apparently being made toward better coordination and consolidation of survey and reporting requirements. In their letter of transmittal to us, G.A.O. stated:

"Although hospitals are subjected to many inspections and are requested to complete many forms and reports, our work indicates that the degree to which they are duplicative or similar is not as great as other studies on this subject have reported. Further, we believe that efforts by Federal, State and private organizations currently underway to reduce the existing duplication and similarity of inspections and information requests are improving the situation, and should be continued.

"Our work on Life Safety Code enforcement showed that most deficiencies in our sample of hospitals have been or are in the process of being corrected, and they cost hospitals an average of at least \$31,000 to correct."