

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE AMENDMENT WOULD ALLOW FULL PARTICIPATION BY HANDICAPPED ON COMMISSION

WASHINGTON-- Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas) today offered an amendment to legislation creating a National Service Commission that would allow full participation by handicapped Americans.

The following is Senator Dole's floor statement:

"I send to the desk an unprinted amendment and ask for its immediate consideration.

"My staff has informed me that the Committee has agreed to accept this amendment. I am pleased with the Committee's action as I truly believe this amendment strengthens the intent of the National Service Commission.

National Service Commission

"The Domestic Violence Prevention and Services Act and National Service Commission Act, includes authority to establish a presidential commission on national service.

"The concept of a National Service Program is not new. Since 1910, when the first National Service concept was proposed, there has been much discussion of this concept within the private and public sectors. We have seen numerous versions of this concept in operation with the establishment of the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) Peace Corps and Action.

"My amendment is direct and to the point, it simply amends the language of the bill to include representation of groups with interest in service opportunities for handicapped individuals on the Commission on National Service.

"The amendment that the Senator from Kansas is offering is not so much on the question of the pros and cons of a National Service Program rather to the makeup of the Commission. As you know, the Commission will eventually offer recommendations to the Congress as to the feasibility of such a program.

"The Senator from Kansas has yet to be convinced of the merits of any mandatory service, except in the event of a national emergency. Thus, it is my hope that this Commission, after careful consultation with each of the constituent groups which will be affected by national service, will provide the facts enabling an informed decision to be made on this very important matter.

"I strongly believe that the Commission can be effective only if its membership is broadly representative of those individual organizations, and groups that would or should be most affected by the development of a National Service Program.

"Again, I want to state that this amendment is intended to help promote the participation of handicapped individuals in all decision processes of this country."