

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE COMMENDS WHITE HOUSE TASK FORCE ON FOOD ASSISTANCE

WASHINGTON -- Kansas Senator Bob Dole, Chairman of the Senate Nutrition Subcommittee, today commended the White House Task Force on Food Assistance for offering substantive and constructive recommendations in its final report.

"Although there are some proposals that the Congress is not likely to favor, such as the optional state block grant, many of the task force recommendations reflect a need for some fine tuning in federal nutrition programs in order to better provide adequate benefits to low-income and unemployed Americans," said Dole. "Restoring the Thrifty Food Plan (TFP) to 100% of its intended level is a step in the right direction, as is a reevaluation of the TFP itself."

"The federal government should continue to maintain its leadership role in federal food programs, but it cannot accept all of the responsibility for providing food assistance to every American in need," Dole said. "There must be a cooperative effort between all levels of government. Churches, soup kitchens and other charitable organizations in local communities throughout the country have gone far to address the problems of individuals who, for whatever reason, are not being reached by the regular nutrition assistance that is available through government programs."

"I believe, however, that the Food Stamp Program is the most important social program since Social Security," said Dole. "It's not perfect, but it has been very effective in addressing the nutrition needs of low-income Americans."