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TUESDAY, MAY 22, 1984

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DOLE URGES SWIFT SENATE APPROVAL OF SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY  
ACT OF 1984 IN REMARKS TO NATIONAL ORGANIZATION ON DISABILITY

WASHINGTON -- Senate Finance Committee Chairman Bob Dole (R-KS) today urged the full Senate to act quickly in approving the Social Security Disability Act of 1984. Dole made the remarks in a speech to the National Organization on Disability.

"In my position as Chairman of the Finance Committee, I am constantly reminded of the Catch 22 of the federal system. We are continually making progress in eliminating the disincentives to gainful employment," said Dole. Prior to the enactment of a provision in 1980, a disabled SSI recipient generally ceased to be eligible for SSI when his or her earnings exceeded the level which demonstrates Substantial Gainful Employment (SGA) -- \$300 monthly. Under Section 1619 of the Social Security Act, enacted in the Disability Amendments of 1980, disabled SSI recipients who work and earn more than SGA may receive a special SSI payment and maintain medicaid coverage and social services.

"I am pleased that after years of working towards this goal, the Finance Committee last week reported a bill that would make major changes in the disability review process," said Dole. "The bill may be brought up on the floor this week, and I urge the Senate to act quickly in approving this measure."

"Last year I introduced legislation calling for the National Decade of the Disabled, the goal of which would be to increase the economic independence of every disabled American. I am happy to be with you today to launch the National Organization on Disability National Association Awards Program which will recognize the national associations who do the most to support the Decade's goals," said Dole.

"Government cannot assume all of the responsibility for this worthy goal. Government no longer has all the answers or the resources available to cope with the diversity of problems and needs within our society. Only with partnership between the public and private sector, only by harnessing the energies and talents of all sectors of America can we restore both human dignity and self-reliance to the lives of America's 35 million disabled."

"Just yesterday in Chicago, I was delighted to be given a tour of the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago by Dr. Henry Betts. During my four hours at that impressive facility, I was reminded that disabled people want the same things that you and I want -- to participate in all aspects of human life, to face the fullest challenge of their abilities. Disabled persons would rather be taxpayers than recipients of tax-supported assistance. But they need the support of all of us here in this room. Not through paternalism and handouts, but through the involvement of their fellow Americans. Working together we can achieve the goal of the Decade of Disabled Persons -- independence for disabled Americans.