

Bob Dole



**NEWS
FROM:**

**U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS
SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

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RURAL HEALTH CARE HEARING

DOLE ANNOUNCES WITNESS PANELS: TOP FEDERAL & STATE OFFICIALS TO APPEAR AT HAYS HEALTH CARE FORUM

WASHINGTON -- Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole (R-Kansas) today announced that four panels of Kansas health care experts will address the Senator's Rural Health Care Forum on Wednesday, May 27th in Hays. Dole, who is sponsoring the hearing to examine the challenges facing health care in rural America, also announced that several top federal and state rural health care officials will join him at the hearing to answer questions from the Kansas witnesses and the audience.

The witness panels will examine rural health care issues from four different perspectives -- the hospital industry, consumers, those involved in manpower recruitment, and providers of ambulatory services. Officials including the Director of the U.S. Office of Rural Health, the Director of the Kansas Office of Local and Rural Health, and representatives of the U.S. Health Care Financing Administration and Kansas Blue Cross/Blue Shield will bring their expertise to the discussion.

"With all the focus these days on America's cities, it's more important than ever before to make certain that the needs of our rural areas get the attention they deserve," Dole said. "The number one challenge facing rural America is ensuring access and affordability of quality health care. That's why I believe this face-to-face hearing is so important -- thanks to the Kansans on the panels and in the audience, top administration officials will get the perspective they need to make important decisions on rural health care policy."

The hearing will be held from 9:30 AM until 12:30 PM on Wednesday, May 27th at the Country Kitchen in Hays. All Kansans are welcome to attend.

The Federal, State and health insurance experts attending include:

Jeff Human
Director, Office of Rural Health
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

Chuck Booth
Health Care Financing Administration
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

Ed Brennan
Health Care Financing Administration
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

Dick Morrissey
Director
Kansas Office of Local & Rural Health

Jay Lohman
Kansas Blue Cross/Blue Shield

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