

**Bob Dole**



**NEWS**

**U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS**

**FROM:**

**SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

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**SENATOR DOLE QUESTIONS DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
**PLANS FOR LEAVENWORTH DOMICILIARY**

WASHINGTON -- Saying the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) is "considering policies which could put some of our veterans on the street," Senator Bob Dole today questioned the DVA's proposed plan to reduce the number of beds at the Dwight D. Eisenhower VAMC Domiciliary in Leavenworth, Kansas.

The DVA has proposed to reduce the number of beds at the facility, which currently serves 387 veterans, to 208. In order to reach the 208 figure by the target date of September 1994, the facility would have to reduce its number of residents by approximately 20 a month. While the DVA, in its response to a letter from Senator Dole, assured the Senator last week that "veterans would be outplaced only if an appropriate alternative setting in the community is available, or if the patient ..." is able to function independently in the community, Dole expressed his concern that the decision could result in creating homeless veterans.

"The Department itself has projected a need for 353 beds through the year 2005, and yet they want to make only 208 available for our veterans," Dole said. "This plan just doesn't make sense. The Department recently held a conference on homeless veterans in Washington, yet at the same time, it is considering policies which could put some of our veterans on the street. I question whether this policy lives up to the Department's slogan of 'Putting Veterans First.'

"I hope the DVA will reconsider this plan," Dole continued. "At the very least, they should seek the level of funding and resources needed to fulfill their own projected demands."

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