

*Bob Dole*



**NEWS**

**U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS**

**FROM:**

**SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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*Contact: Clarkson Hine  
(202) 224-5358*

## **CRIME BILL**

### **HOUSE DEFEAT AN OPPORTUNITY TO DRAFT TOUGH, NO-NONSENSE CRIME-FIGHTING PLAN**

Yesterday's House vote on the crime bill shouldn't be viewed as a defeat for President Clinton, but rather as an opportunity. An opportunity to go back to the drawing board and draft the kind of tough, no-nonsense crime-fighting plan the American people deserve.

A tough crime bill would strip out the billions and billions of dollars in wasteful, 60's-style, social-welfare spending. The most effective crime-prevention measure is not the pork-barrel, but the prison cell.

A tough crime bill would increase funding for state prisons to the \$13 billion level passed by the House last April and would condition at least half of this funding on the adoption of truth-in-sentencing laws for first-time violent offenders.

A tough crime bill would plug the so-called mandatory minimum "safety valve" that could result in the early release of as many as 10,000 convicted criminals.

A tough crime bill would restore the mandatory minimum penalties for those who use a gun in the commission of a crime.

A tough crime bill would mandate restitution to the victims of violent crime. Unbelievably, this proposal was dropped by the crime conferees.

And a tough crime bill would require that the public be notified of the whereabouts of violent sexual predators living in their communities. Congress must pass the "Megan Kanka" law...and must do so now.

This isn't the time for finger-pointing. Playing the "blame game" won't get us anywhere. The crime bill failed yesterday not because of the so-called "gun issue," as President Clinton would have us believe, but because the American people saw the crime bill for what it really was: an over-hyped, multi-billion dollar boondoggle that emphasized social theory over law enforcement.

If President Clinton is serious about passing a tough, no-nonsense crime-control plan, then Republicans are prepared to work with him. But the President must understand that resurrecting the crime bill must be a bipartisan effort. No behind-the-scenes meetings. No secret conclaves. No one-party drafting sessions.

If Republicans have real input, if our ideas are considered and accepted, then there's a chance--a chance--that Congress will be able to pass a real crime bill later this year.

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\*Remarks delivered on the Senate floor, approximately 11:05 AM.