

*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

## HEALTH CARE UPDATE

### DEBATE HAS NOWHERE TO GO BUT UP, FOLLOWING UNPRECEDENTED HARSH RHETORIC FROM PRESIDENT

Last Friday, I expressed my hope that the debate we begin soon will result in a bipartisan solution to our health care problems.

And I also suggested that the chance of reaching such a solution would be greater if the increasingly harsh partisan rhetoric coming from the White House and its allies would stop.

Unfortunately, my suggestion was completely ignored. For not only did the rhetoric continue, but it reached new and unprecedented levels in both partisanship and rancor.

#### "Violent, Extreme Interests"

In Detroit on Saturday, President Clinton said--and I quote: "It's the violent, extreme interests in this country that are trying to keep health care out of the reach of ordinary American working people, and (they) are a disgrace to the American dream."

There you have it. I'm certain Americans who question the wisdom of government run health care will be surprised to know that President Clinton considers them to be "violent extreme interests," and a "disgrace to the American dream."

And how about the National Restaurant Association, the National Federation of Independent Business, the National Association of Manufacturers, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Retail Federation, the National Wheat Growers Association, the National Cattlemen Association, and the American Truckers Association?

They've all expressed support for the Dole-Packwood "American Option" plan. Are they, therefore, "violent extreme interests?"

Are Members of Congress in both parties who oppose the Clinton/Mitchell bill and the Clinton/Gephardt bill a "disgrace to the American dream?"

According to a survey out this morning, 65% of the American public say that Congress should start over on health care reform next year. Do they qualify as "violent extreme interests?"

#### Room for More Than One Point of View

Health care reform is a complex issue--one where there is certainly room for more than one point of view. I have never questioned the President's desire to help Americans in need. Nor have I questioned the fact that he sincerely believes the best way to do that is through government-run health care.

I, too, want to help Americans in need. And, along with many other Americans--both Democrat and Republican--I sincerely believe that we can do that without turning over the best health care system in the world to the federal government.

I guess the good news is that the health care reform debate has nowhere to go but up, because with President Clinton's inappropriate remarks, it cannot go lower.

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\*\* Remarks delivered on Senate floor, approximately 12:50 PM EDT.