

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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HEALTH CARE REALITY CHECK

TARGETED EFFORTS STILL PROVIDE HOPE FOR REFORM THIS YEAR:
DON'T JEOPARDIZE HELP FOR MILLIONS BY TRYING TO GO TOO FAR

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK -- Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole today issued the following statement:

"The Senate's two-week time-out in the health care debate provides the opportunity for an important reality check. At most, there are likely to be just 20 to 25 legislative days remaining in 1994, and Congress has a lot on its plate. The fact is, unless we sacrifice Congressional action on everything else, there is no way we can pass health care reform this year unless we can agree on targeted reform efforts such as the Dole/Packwood plan or the bipartisan Rowland/Bilirakis plan.

"Instead of trying to reinvent the wheel in the coming weeks, we should get back to the basics of trying to help millions and millions of Americans who can't afford coverage, who cannot get insurance because of a pre-existing condition, or who cannot keep insurance due to a job change. I believe we can still reach agreement on this kind of reform package that can help millions of people.

"But unless the Democrats are willing to move in this direction, I'm afraid there won't be any health care reform this year. That would be unfortunate in my view, because we should not jeopardize help for millions of Americans by trying to go too far."

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