

**Joint Statement on the Debt Ceiling
Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, House Speaker Newt Gingrich
and House Majority Leader Dick Armey**

March 6, 1996

Utah Governor Michael Leavitt, Chairman of the Medicaid Task Force of the Republican Governors Association (RGA), today asked the Congress to enact a short-term increase in borrowing authority in order to give the governors time to work with the congressional leadership as well as with the Administration to finalize the details of the bipartisan welfare and Medicaid reform proposals.

Given the Administration's statements before the Senate Finance Committee criticizing the governors' unanimous bipartisan proposal, we are concerned that an agreement may prove elusive. However, Congressional Republicans, and the governors, have devoted countless hours over the last year trying to turn power back to the states, whom we believe are far more capable of addressing the needs of their citizens with compassion and efficiency. We are hopeful a resolution is still attainable.

In order to give the governors sufficient time to resolve these issues, the House and Senate will vote to extend borrowing authority to March 29.

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