

Bob Dole



NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ANTI-TERRORISM BILL

DOLE URGES PRESIDENT NOT TO VETO FOR SECOND TIME **MUCH-NEEDED DEATH PENALTY REFORM**

PHILADELPHIA, PA -- Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole today sent the following letter to President Clinton urging him to sign strong, bipartisan anti-terrorism legislation with much-needed reform of the death penalty appeals process. The text of the letter follows:

Dear Mr. President:

I was distressed to see your mischaracterizations of the anti-terrorism legislation over the weekend. I was especially surprised to see such obviously partisan remarks over a bill that has enjoyed - quite properly -- broad, bipartisan support.

At my urging, this legislation includes provisions to facilitate the speedy removal of suspected terrorists from U.S. soil; prevent foreign terrorist organizations from raising money within the United States; and make membership in a terrorist organization a basis for exclusion from the United States. The legislation will provide for more effective tracing of explosive materials.

And, perhaps most important, this legislation will contain tough habeas corpus reform -- a measure to stop the seemingly endless delays and frivolous appeals by convicted death row inmates. Regrettably, the White House is once again arguing for changes that would essentially gut this reform.

You have already vetoed reform of the death penalty appeals process. I urge you not to repeat this mistake. Of all the provisions in the anti-terrorism bill, there is only one -- habeas corpus reform -- that would directly apply to those responsible for last year's tragedy in Oklahoma City. Endless appeals by those who commit violent crimes are an injustice and mock the memories of the victims and their families.

Mr. President, this is a strong bill, with widespread bipartisan support. I hope you will not veto for a second time much needed habeas corpus reform.

Sincerely,

BOB DOLE