

NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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WELFARE REFORM BLOCKED

DOLE CALLS PRESIDENT'S BLUFF ON WELFARE REFORM:
OFFERS TO PASS DOLE PLAN, DEMOCRATS OBJECT

WASHINGTON -- A day after President Clinton said he would sign the welfare reform plan proposed by Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole and urged the Senate to "let her rip" on the Dole plan, Senator Dole asked unanimous consent that the Senate pass his welfare reform plan today. Senate Democratic Leader Daschle objected to doing so. Senator Dole's remarks follow:

Three days ago in Wisconsin, I outlined my welfare reform plan. Let me be as clear as I can.

1. I mean requiring every able-bodied welfare recipient to find work within two years -- or a shorter period of time if the state so desires. President Clinton's plan means no real work requirement until after the next century.
2. I mean a real five year lifetime limit on welfare payments with few exceptions. President Clinton's plan means no real limits and no real change.
3. I mean making certain that illegal noncitizens are ineligible for all but emergency benefits. President Clinton's plan avoids this tough decision.
4. I mean giving states the ability to stop payments to unmarried teens. President Clinton's plan, once again, avoids this tough choice.
5. And above all, I mean trusting the nation's governors with the flexibility they need to establish the laboratories of our democracy. President Clinton's plan means trusting only federal bureaucrats in Washington.

The President and I have a different approach.

Governor Thompson and four other Republican Governors wrote to President Clinton, "Without national welfare reform for all 50 states, the cycle of poverty goes on -- for instance, the number of single women head of households in poverty has increased by 175,000 since you [Mr. President] took office."

No doubt about it, we must stop the plague of out-of-wedlock births in our inner cities, which is as high as 80 percent in some areas.

We must give all able-bodied Americans a chance at the American work ethic.

We must reform welfare. President Clinton is not doing this. As we all know, he has twice vetoed welfare reform passed by Congress. I wonder if he is willing to deny the American dream to another generation of Americans.

President Clinton yesterday suggested my five positions outlined above were very consistent with his. They are not. The President suggested that Congress pass my welfare reform plan and that he will sign it.

I am ready to move on my plan. I offer the following unanimous consent.

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