



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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(Washington)--Senator Bob Dole today introduced a bill to continue for one year all present child nutrition programs under the National School Lunch Act and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966. Specifically, Dole's bill would extend the Special Food Service Program for Children, the School Breakfast Program, and the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). Without new legislation, all three programs will terminate this summer.

Dole's bill also contains provisions which would allow states to receive cash payments from the Department of Agriculture in lieu of commodity donations to child nutrition programs. Dole was prompted to offer this provision because of the experience over the past several months in Kansas where school feeding programs have received cash in lieu of commodities. Currently, Kansas is the only state receiving such cash grants. In introducing the bill, Dole said: "The initial experience in Kansas strongly indicates that Kansas schools have been able to realize substantial administrative cost savings while continuing to make economical bulk purchases of a wide variety of nutritious foods".

Dole stressed the importance of avoiding a long-term commitment to the commodity donation approach. He said, "I am confident that most Members of the Congress -- as well as state officials -- would favor an efficient cash program which not only provides nutritious foods but also stimulates local economies and assists small businessmen and producers who provide the food to local child nutrition programs."

The bill would require local child nutrition officials who opt for the cash program to purchase only domestically-produced commodities and products just as the Department of Agriculture does for the commodity program.

Another provision of the legislation would eliminate so-called "back-door funding" of some nutrition programs by requiring all programs to go through the regular budget and appropriations process. Presently, some child nutrition programs receive funds directly from a separate fund made up of money collected from customs taxes. Dole said he felt this provision of the bill was more in line with the spirit of the new Congressional budget process.

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