



# NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.-Kans.)

New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 225-6521

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CONTACT: JANET ANDERSON  
KIM WELLS

## DOLE CALLS HOSPITAL COST CONTAINMENT PROGRAM "SHORT-SIGHTED"

SHAWNEE MISSION--"Massive increases in health care expenditures have dramatic implications not just for the physical well being of patients but for the fiscal well being of federal, state and local government," Senator Bob Dole said Sunday. Dole made the statement during the dedication ceremony for the Shawnee Mission Medical Center in Johnson County.

"Congress must understand the cost pressures on local hospitals before launching into any short-sighted cost containment system," Dole said, referring to the Administration's proposal to place a cap on hospital costs. "Of course, we're all interested in holding down the rapid rise in health care expenditures. Something must be done. Unless the growth in health care costs is somehow restrained, federal spending for Medicare and Medicaid alone will climb 75% within the next four years, to over \$66 billion a year."

Dole said that the Medicare and Medicaid reform legislation he introduced along with Senator Herman Talmadge (D-Ga.) "represents a responsible alternative to efforts to arbitrarily impose a 9% cap on hospital reimbursement increases. Without insuring that corresponding limits will be placed on price hikes and improved services which hospitals must purchase, it is unfair to expect our health care institutions to bear the entire burden of alleviating the rising health care cost problem. If there are savings to be realized from increased efficiency in federal health program administration, the the bill which I have cosponsored will bring them about while maintaining a realistic view of charges which health care providers are--and are not--able to make."