



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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G.A.O. STUDY ON DIALYSIS RELEASED

WASHINGTON D.C.-- Senator Bob Dole today released a Government Accounting Office study prepared at his request, that discusses and updates information on the relative costs and the mortality rates of home kidney dialysis vs. facility dialysis.

During the Finance Health Subcommittee hearings on the End Stage Renal Disease Program, conflicting information was presented to Committee members on the cost of home dialysis and the mortality rates of those participating in this form of treatment.

Dole indicated his concern at that time, noting that while he too was concerned at the present cost of the program, and supportive of efforts to reduce cost through the use of other treatment modalities, he did not want to be in a position of encouraging a form of treatment that might prove to be a risk to patients.

Late last week Dole received the latest GAO study. "The General Accounting Office has presented me with a report addressing many of my concerns," Dole said. "I am hopeful that the Committee will have an opportunity to consider the bill in the very near future. It is important for us to keep in mind that the cost of the program--while important--is not as important as the well being of those citizens who depend on dialysis for life. We must proceed very carefully looking closely at all the facts presented to us."