

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE ASKS THAT BALANCE-THE-BUDGET AMENDMENT BE REPORTED OUT OF SUBCOMMITTEE BY FOURTH OF JULY

WASHINGTON-- Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas) today joined a bipartisan group of U.S. Senators who have written to Sen. Birch Bayh (D.-Ind.), chairman of the Senate Constitution Subcommittee of the Judiciary Committee, urging that a constitutional amendment requiring a balanced federal budget be reported out of that subcommittee by the Fourth of July recess.

Noting that Congress offers the best vehicle to begin the amendment process, Dole and the others stressed that speedy action is necessary to prevent Congress from being pre-empted by a constitutional convention.

When 34 state legislatures pass balance-the-budget resolutions that call for a convention, the Constitution mandates that the convention prepare an amendment for the states to ratify. Thirty state legislatures have already voted to pass the resolution.

Dole urged Bayh to consider the popular appeal of the balance-the-budget amendment approach. Polls show that 70 percent of all Americans favor a balanced budget. In addition, 28 Senators and over 100 House members have introduced balance-the-budget legislation this year. Recently, the Senate failed, by just two votes, to attach a Dole-Armstrong balanced budget amendment to the debt ceiling bill.

Senator Dole, along with others, recently formed an informal caucus to work collectively for balanced budget legislation.

In the letter, Dole praised Bayh for holding several days of hearings on the numerous amendment proposals now before the Congress.

"It is still my belief that we can get an amendment this year," Dole said.