

News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

2213 Dirksen Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

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CONTACT: BOB WAITE, BILL KATS  
(202) 224-8953, -8947

## DOLE SAYS LEAA RESTRUCTURING WILL DECREASE RED TAPE

WASHINGTON -- The following is Senator Bob Dole's statement on the Federal Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, S.241:

"Today we consider legislation that would restructure the Federal Law Enforcement Assistance Administration. As a cosponsor of this legislation I am enthused about the positive changes that this legislation will generate. This bill will dramatically decrease the amount of bureaucratic red tape, provide innovative formulas and criteria for the channeling of LEAA funds to the areas of greatest need and reorganize the agency, said Dole.

### THE MANDATE OF LEAA

"The mandate of LEAA is to help local communities combat crime and to improve the criminal justice systems in those communities. During the ten years that LEAA has been in existence this mandate has been successfully fulfilled. Creative programs have been developed, underfinanced criminal justice agencies have been granted the required resources and personnel has been improved through innovative training programs.

### KANSAS AND LEAA

"In my own state of Kansas, small police departments and sheriffs' offices have benefitted considerably from the LEAA's aid to local law enforcement units. Without this aid there probably would be no up-to-date radio and teletype communications systems linking the outlying jurisdictions. LEAA grants have paid for much of the equipment in that vital network. Much needed legal and investigative training has been conducted with LEAA's help that smaller law enforcement agencies could not have afforded any other way. Presently there is a move toward better organized, more uniform criminal records systems that can be traced back to LEAA assistance.

"Although the Senator from Kansas recognizes the achievements of LEAA, it must be noted that LEAA can be improved. S.241 provides the necessary improvements by removing statistical and justice research programs from the LEAA and creating two new agencies within the Justice Department--the National Institute of Justice and the Bureau of Justice Statistics. These two agencies along with the LEAA, would make up the Office of Justice Assistance, Research and Statistics. The National Institute of Corrections would be transferred from the Federal Prison System to Office of Justice Assistance, Research and Statistics," said Dole.

### CHANGE OF PRIORITY

"S.241 will improve the nature and administration of criminal justice and change the prevailing perception that criminal justice is a low priority item in both the states and the federal government. The Senator from Kansas eagerly anticipates the passage of this necessary legislation.

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