

News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

2213 Dirksen Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
TUESDAY, JUNE 12, 1979

CONTACT: BOB WAITE/SHEILA BURKE  
(202) 224-8953

## ADMINISTRATION HEALTH PLAN 'WRONG APPROACH' ACCORDING TO SENATOR DOLE

WASHINGTON -- Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas) today called the Carter Administration's national health insurance plan "a classic example of what can happen when you attempt to mix politics and health care. The bill attempts to deal with too many issues at too high a cost and again proposes the big government solution to problems."

Dole, ranking Republican on the Senate Finance Committee, which will consider any health insurance legislation before the Congress, said "the Administration's program is just another in a series of proposals to federalize this nation's health care system. The Administration has put forward a plan that would phase in federalization, but the end result would be the same. I, for one, believe it makes better sense to build on the private sector. Arbitrarily increasing federal programs to solve all the problems is not in the best interest of the health care community, the patient, or the taxpayer."

"The Administration's proposal has several disturbing elements," said Dole. "First, it was originally to have cost \$10-15 billion. Now -- perhaps in response to the more liberal Kennedy proposal -- costs have been upped to \$18 billion in 1980, and to \$23-25 billion for the first full year of operation in 1983. Second, they are doing the same thing the Kennedy-Labor forces are doing -- using the only problem we can manageably deal with, that of catastrophic expenses, as a lever to bring about ultimate federal domination of the entire system. And third, the proposal creates a massive federal bureaucracy with administrative costs of approximately \$2.1 billion.

"I believe Americans should have access to quality, affordable health care. But I do not believe this proposal will accomplish that aim. We need to utilize the positive aspects of the current health care system, deal with the limited goal of catastrophic protection this year, in addition to limited Medicare reform, and provide the American people with a health insurance program we can literally live with both medically and financially."

Senator Bob Dole, joined by Senator Jack Danforth (R.-Mo.) and Pete Domenici (R.-N.M.), introduced his own catastrophic health insurance and Medicare improvements bill earlier this year.