

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, AUGUST 2, 1979

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DOLE SUPPORTS REDUCED AMTRAK FARE FOR ELDERLY, HANDICAPPED

WASHINGTON -- Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) last night cosponsored an amendment to the Senate version of the Amtrak bill providing for reduced fares for the elderly and the handicapped. The amendment, introduced by Sen. James Sasser (D-Tenn.), directs the Amtrak governing corporation, within 90 days of enactment of the bill, to cut fares to not more than 75 percent of the regular fare.

"I believe this is an amendment that will improve the attractiveness of Amtrak," Dole said. "It is not a patronizing action directed to handicapped Americans. The handicapped Americans are going to make it all right. They do not have to be segregated. They do not have to be patronized. The handicapped Americans just need the same opportunities as everyone else. But reduced fares can certainly be advantageous to encourage a disabled person to travel more.

"I am pleased that older Americans will also benefit, and I support attempts to bring some relief to those who are living on fixed incomes. The high rate of inflation we have experienced poses many hardships on older Americans. To the extent that reduced fares will help soften the effects of inflation in even one small way, then I believe it is worthwhile."

Those 65 and older will be eligible for the reduced fares.

The fare will be reduced by 25 percent, according to the language of the amendment.