

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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DOLE TO INTRODUCE RESOLUTION ON YEAR OF DISABLED PERSONS

WASHINGTON -- Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan.) today announced the introduction of a concurrent resolution in conjunction with the International Year of Disabled Persons. The resolution is intended to focus congressional attention on possible legislative initiatives that can be taken to assist handicapped individuals during the 97th Congress.

A companion resolution was introduced in the House by Kansas Representative Larry Winn.

"It is our hope that this resolution will serve to underline the significance of 1981 as the International Year of Disabled Persons, while the 97th Congress proceeds to the legislative business of this session," Dole said.

"We are now at a time in our nation's history when we can look back over the past decade and see the progress that has been made in assisting 35 million disabled Americans in their efforts to join the mainstream of our society," said Dole. "However, we cannot rest here and commend ourselves on the good work that has been done, because there is still a lot to do-- we must keep moving along the path we have begun."

"Just as the leadership of the U.S. Council on the International Year of Disabled Persons has been working together with the Federal Interagency Committee on the International Year of Disabled Persons, in a symbolic private and public sector cooperative endeavor, it is my hope that this kind of example will follow through in the rest of our society," commented Dole. "Government can play an important role in promoting the interests of disabled Americans, but it is really up to the private sector to implement the signals given out by government."

"Actions that we take on the Senate and House floors can have a tremendous impact on the quality of the lives that handicapped individuals lead in communities across the country," Dole said. "And there are still a lot of obstacles to be overcome."

"This is a new year of special significance; we have a new Congress; and we have a new Administration," Dole said. "It is my hope that we can make this a new opportunity to reaffirm our resolve to address the needs of mentally and physically disabled Americans."

"These individuals have a lot to offer our society, and it is time that we concentrated on their potential and not their limitations," concluded Dole. "This year should be a new beginning for all Americans."