

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

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CONTACT: SCOTT RICHARDSON
(202) 224-6521

DOLE-WINN "INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR DISABLED PERSONS" RESOLUTION

GETS HOUSE HEARING

WASHINGTON -- The House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Human Rights and International Organizations today held a hearing on the "International Decade for the Disabled," a resolution introduced by Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kan.) and Representative Larry Winn, Jr. (R.-Kan.).

"The United Nations has declared 1983-1992 as the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons, and this Congressional action is a logical extension of the U.N. goals," said Senator Dole. "Congressman Winn, the many House and Senate co-sponsors and I believe that the lives of our nation's 35 million disabled people have been significantly improved through rehabilitation, community living and employment opportunities. But there are still many doors that need to be opened to enable the full participation of handicapped people in our society."

"The United Nations' action has established a framework that can provide the incentive for our own national plan of action for long-term goals to help disabled people. These goals include:

- expanded educational opportunity;
- improved access to housing, buildings and transportation;
- greater opportunity for employment;
- greater participation in recreational, social and cultural activities;
- improved rehabilitation programs and facilities;
- purposeful application of biomedical research aimed at conquering major disabling conditions;
- reduction in the incidence of disability through accident and disease prevention;
- increased application of technology to ameliorate the effects of disability;
- expanded international exchange of information and experience to benefit all disabled persons."

"The area of handicapped programs has always been one that inspires a strong bipartisan commitment. Perhaps the best effort we can make is to ensure access to equal opportunity in education, employment, community living and health care," said Senator Dole.

"Larry Winn is taking a real leadership role in this issue. These hearings will focus attention on the problem faced by disabled people, and the steps that can be taken to alleviate those problems," said Senator Dole.