

News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



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SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE RELEASES STUDY ON  
CHANGING THE STRUCTURE OF MEDICARE BENEFITS

WASHINGTON, D. C. -- Senate Finance Committee Chairman Bob Dole

(R-Kans.) announced today that the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has released a study prepared at the request of the committee on potential changes in Medicare's benefit structure.

The study examines options for increasing the share of medical care costs paid by beneficiaries and changes that would improve the protection of the elderly and disabled against catastrophic medical expenditures. The study also details the impact on individual medicare enrollees and estimated Federal savings for several options.

"Current projections show the medicare Hospital Insurance trust fund as being depleted before the end of the decade. Clearly something must be done to address the problem," said Senator Dole. "Cost sharing may be a part of the solution, but only a small part. The subject also deserves our consideration because it is a part of the Administration's proposal to provide protection against catastrophic medicare expenses by altering the current cost sharing structure. The CBO study provides an excellent starting point for considering the Administration's proposal. I urge all concerned parties to read it."

The study focuses on a variety of options that would increase cost-sharing by enrollees, with and without limits on liability (catastrophic protection). These options highlight important trade-offs between cost-savings to the medicare program and increased expenses for individual enrollees. In keeping with a mandate to provide objective and impartial analysis, the CBO study contains no recommendations.

The March 1983 CBO study is entitled "Changing the Structure of Medicare Benefits: Issues and Options."