

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE LAUDS SUPREME COURT PENSION DECISION --
CALLS CONCLUSION "INESCAPABLE"

LOS ANGELES -- Senate Finance Committee Chairman Bob Dole (R-Kan.) today applauded the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling that it is unlawful for employers to pay women smaller pension benefits than men simply because women, on the average, live longer.

Last month, Chairman Dole held two full days of hearings in the Finance Committee on pension equity for women. He is also the sponsor of The Retirement Equity Act, a bill designed to improve the chances that women will actually receive expected pension benefits.

"A fundamental tenet of our national civil rights policy has always been that people should be treated as individuals and should not be subject to discrimination on the basis of group characteristics such as gender," Dole said. "Paying all individual women smaller pension benefits because women, as a class, live longer than men is flatly inconsistent with this principle. The Court's holding that Title VII prohibits the practice was inescapable."

Dole noted that Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act contains a general prohibition against sex discrimination in employment.

Dole also added that it appears the financial impact of the decision on pension plans would be minimized because the Court held today that the decision would not be retroactive.