

News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
FRIDAY, JULY 29, 1983

CONTACT: SCOTT RICHARDSON  
(202)224-8947

DOLE SENDS AMERICAN LEGION REPORT ON TOPEKA VETERANS ADMINISTRATION HOSPITAL TO  
VA ADMINISTRATOR IN WASHINGTON --  
POSSIBLE INADEQUACIES NOTED

WASHINGTON -- Kansas Senator Bob Dole, concerned about possible inadequacies at the Topeka Veterans Administration Hospital, has sent VA Administrator Harry N. Walters a copy of a report compiled by the American Legion.

The American Legion Report cites possible inadequacies in staffing, and safe nursing coverage on some psychiatric units. The report states that "staffing ratios make it difficult to provide for patient safety, much less to provide quality care," and raises the possibility of inadequate fire safety.

The text of Senator Dole's letter follows:

Dear Mr. Walters:

I am enclosing a copy of a field report relative to the Topeka, Kansas Veterans Administration Hospital, which was provided to me by the American Legion. The report indicates that some serious deficiencies in staffing exist in the psychiatric units, to the point that inadequate care is being provided and that patient safety is questionable. I also note that the report speaks to the need for improved fire safety measures. The combination of inadequate staffing, and lack of adequate fire safety could combine to cause serious loss of life in the event of fire.

I would appreciate your looking into the matter, and advising me of the conditions and of remedial action proposed. If there appears to be legislative action necessary to assist the Veterans Administration in this matter, I would appreciate being advised of the specifics.

Sincerely yours,

Bob Dole  
U.S. Senate

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Dole', written over the typed name.