

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1983

DOLE PLEDGES SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT'S
PROPOSED SEX-BIAS CHANGES: WILL AMEND HIS PENDING
LEGISLATION TO SECURE PROMPT ENACTMENT

WASHINGTON -- Senator Robert Dole (R.-Kan.) announced today that he would push for the swift enactment of the President's proposal to eliminate some 47 sex-biased laws by proposing an amendment to legislation which he has already introduced and is pending in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Dole first introduced the legislation last October, with the President's backing, and reintroduced it in this Congress last February. As introduced, the bill proposed changes in about 100 sex-discriminatory laws, though many of the changes, primarily in the Social Security area, have already become law. A Senate subcommittee is expected to favorably report the measure next Friday.

The Dole legislation was based on the Department of Justice's First Quarterly Report, which was completed in June of 1982. Subsequently, DOJ completed a more exhaustive computer search and identified 51 additional discriminatory statutes. Of these, the President wants 47 changed.

Dole was careful to emphasize that the substantive significance of the bill should not be overstated, noting that most of the remaining discriminatory provisions are either "obsolete or of extremely limited application." He characterized the effort as a "small, but important and necessary step which the Congress should be able to quickly put behind it."

Dole also emphasized the importance of concentrating on pending legislative proposals that would be of economic benefit to women, such as another bill he has introduced, S. 19, the "Retirement Equity Act," also backed by the Administration. The bill contains a number of proposed reforms designed to increase the chances that women will receive pension benefits.

Dole is a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee and is Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee.