

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE PUSHES FOR CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT,
CO-SPONSORS CRACKDOWN BILL
AS FINANCE COMMITTEE OPENS HEARINGS

WASHINGTON -- Calling the non-payment of child support "another form of child abuse," Kansas Senator Bob Dole today called for stricter enforcement measures to help crackdown on an ever-widening payment gap.

"The non-payment of child support is emerging as one of the most difficult social problems facing our nation -- it's just another form of child abuse," said Dole, whose Finance Committee opened hearings today on child support enforcement.

According to committee chairman Dole, as of Spring 1982, 8.4 million women were living with a child under 21 years of age whose father was not present in the home. Only 59 percent of these women were awarded child support payments.

The bill, co-sponsored by Senator Dole, not only strengthens current state procedures for collecting child support payments on behalf of children receiving welfare, but also places new emphasis on state collection for non-welfare children, a growing population group that needs this kind of attention.

The bill permits the federal government to cut present enforcement programs by \$200 million with the savings going into a general pool that is available to states which do a good job on support collection. The plan is designed to encourage states to beef-up their efforts to locate evasive parents.

Additionally, of the 4 million women due child support payments in 1981, only 47 percent received the full amount due. In fact, between 1978 and 1981, child support payments decreased dramatically by about 16 percent.

"The statistics go on and on, but the conclusion is clear -- child support is largely being ignored and the economic well-being of children is suffering," Dole said.