

News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: WALT RIKER  
(202) 224-6521

## STATEMENT OF SENATOR BOB DOLE

### SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE HEARING ON THE FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL COMPENSATION PROGRAM FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1983

I commend the Reagan Administration for its proposal to extend the soon-to-expire Federal Supplemental Unemployment Compensation Program for an additional 18 months. The Administration has properly responded to the serious unemployment problems which persist in many parts of the country despite the continuing strong recovery.

The Federal Supplemental Compensation (FSC) Program was part of the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1982. Unemployed individuals began receiving benefits under the temporary program on September 12, 1982 and the program has been expanded and extended twice. The current extension, part of the Social Security Amendments of 1983, expires on September 30 unless Congress takes quick action. I applaud the Administration for proposing this historic extension. An 18-month FSC program would provide necessary assurances to newly unemployed individuals or those who may face layoffs that these emergency unemployment benefits will be available beyond some arbitrary date. An 18-month extension also enables the Congress to evaluate the program now and enact an extension of sufficient length to provide some degree of certainty for the beneficiaries and the administrators of the program.

As Chairman of the Finance Committee which has jurisdiction over the Federal Unemployment Insurance System, I appreciate the fact that the FSC program represents a significant financial commitment on the part of all American taxpayers to assist unemployed workers during a difficult period. The FSC program will have paid benefits to over 5 million people at a cost of some \$5.6 billion by the end of September. The extension proposed by the Administration would add another \$3 billion to that commitment. This is not an expenditure which can be taken lightly and it deserves serious consideration by the House and the Senate in general.

The Federal Supplemental Compensation Program is designed to provide limited financial support on a short-term basis. The proposal presented by the Administration today improves the current program by targeting benefits more effectively and by simplifying program administration. I urge Congress to move quickly to approve this FSC extension.