

News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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

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CONTACT: WALT RIKER,  
SCOTT RICHARDSON 202/224-6521

DOLE PRESSES FOR SPEEDY APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL STAFF  
AT TOPEKA'S COLMERY-O'NEIL VETERANS HOSPITAL

WASHINGTON -- Kansas Senator Bob Dole today called on the Veterans Administration to quickly review and approve a recommendation to fund 21 new Registered Nurse positions at the Colmery-O'Neil V.A. Medical Center.

In a letter to Dr. Earl Brown, Chairman of the V.A. Resource Allocation Committee, which must approve the recommendation, Senator Dole called the lack of adequate staffing a "detriment to serving the veterans in the area."

"You are no doubt aware of my concern with staffing adequacy at Colmery-O'Neil," said Senator Dole. "Of course we are all concerned that federal funds be allocated effectively and used efficiently toward meeting these needs."

"With that in mind, this allocation request represents a workable solution to the immediate needs of the center. As you review the forthcoming request, I trust the committee will give it speedy approval," said Dole in his letter.

The staffing recommendation came as a result of Senator Dole's long-standing efforts on behalf of the Topeka facility. After receiving an American Legion field report indicating possible staffing and fire safety inadequacies, the Senator requested a full assessment of conditions from V.A. Administrator Harry N. Walters.

Following a response that Senator Dole considered less than satisfactory, the two men discussed the matter over the phone. Senator Dole then convened a meeting with top V.A. officials in his office, which resulted in the staffing request of 21 additional nurses.