

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE DOWNPLAYS DEBT CEILING DEFEAT --
RENEWS CALL FOR ACTION ON DEFICIT REDUCTION

WASHINGTON -- Senate Finance Committee Chairman Bob Dole (R-Kan.) today made the following statement in the wake of the Senate's defeat late last night of an extension of the government's national debt ceiling:

"Even though the Senate rejected the debt ceiling increase last night, there is no cause for immediate alarm. The defeat was caused by frustrated Republicans who are upset about exploding deficits and by a high degree of partisan action by Democrats -- only 11 of 45 Democrats voted for the extension."

"However, I am convinced we can assure the Senate that we will address the deficit problem with spending restraint and responsible reconciliation action. The big challenge now is for members to put together a meaningful deficit reduction package. Last night's vote sent a signal to the White House that there is growing concern on Capitol Hill that action on the deficits is of the highest priority."