

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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VETERANS ADMINISTRATION RESOURCE COMMITTEE TO MEET THIS WEEK

FINAL DECISION DUE ON DOLE/VA RECOMMENDATION
FOR ADDITIONAL NURSING AT TOPEKA'S COLMERY-O'NEIL HOSPITAL

WASHINGTON -- Kansas Senator Bob Dole today announced that the Veteran's Administration Resource Allocation Committee is scheduled to meet this week to consider a recommendation to add 21 nurses to Topeka's Colmery-O'Neil Medical Center.

In a letter to Senator Dole, VA Administrator Harry Walters reported that the VA has concluded that "staffing needs improvement" at Colmery-O'Neil. This conclusion resulted from two site visits by Washington VA officials after Senator Dole raised the question of staffing needs this summer.

"I am pleased with the progress made by the VA to alleviate staffing inadequacies at Colmery-O'Neil," Dole said. "This week, a VA Resource Allocation Committee should meet to review a proposal to add 21 Registered Nurses at Colmery-O'Neil through allocation of existing VA funds. This follows previous action to provide funding for the hiring of seven staff members this summer."

"The expressed concern of the VA for Colmery-O'Neil's staffing situation is encouraging," Senator Dole said. "The veterans at this facility will be better served as a result of our efforts toward adequate staffing. I am hopeful that the funds for 21 additional nurses at Colmery-O'Neil can be allocated this week."