

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE HAILS HOUSE APPROVAL OF CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION COMPROMISE

WASHINGTON -- Kansas Senator Bob Dole, Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Courts, praised today's House approval of a compromise on the Civil Rights Commission authorization which he and Senator Joseph Biden (D-Del.) had worked out late last week and which passed the Senate Monday, 79-3.

"By ratifying the Senate's action and approving the compromise meticulously crafted in the Senate, the House has guaranteed the continued existence of the 25-year-old Commission," said Senator Dole. "It appears that the controversy which threatened the life of the agency is now over, with all parties' concerns being adequately addressed. Under the compromise, the Commission will continue as a strong, independent, bipartisan civil rights watchdog, but at the same time, will speak with greater diversity with regard to future civil rights progress."

The compromise was finalized during a midnight Senate session last Thursday, with Dole and Biden brokering with the White House and civil rights groups to end a two-month-old controversy.

The compromise creates a new "hybrid" 8-member Commission. The President appoints four members; Congress appoints four. All commissioners would have fixed, staggered terms. The President could remove commissioners only for cause.