

News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



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## DOLE INTRODUCES ANTI-BIAS BILL THAT WOULD OVERTURN CONTROVERSIAL GROVE CITY DECISION

WASHINGTON -- Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole (R-KS) today announced that he has introduced civil rights legislation designed to overturn last year's controversial ruling by the Supreme Court in Grove City College v Bell.

The Dole bill would amend key federal civil rights statutes prohibiting race, sex, handicap, and age discrimination to clarify that where an educational institution receives federal money, the entire institution must comply with these anti-discrimination mandates. The Grove City court ruled that only the specific department within an institution that actually receives the money need comply. According to Dole the measure has attracted a cross-section of Republican co-sponsors along with Administration support.

The bill also contains a "grandfather" provision which states that in circumstances not involving educational institutions, the jurisdictional reach of these laws as it existed prior to the Grove City case should continue to apply. Dole indicated that this provision was needed to ensure that "the reach of our civil rights statutes in all areas remains as broad as it was before the Grove City case was decided."

The Majority Leader emphasized that most civil rights groups and other critics of the Supreme Court's Grove City decision had called for a similar return to the status quo immediately following the Justices' ruling in February 1984.

"In my view, this bill is a middle ground approach that can build a consensus on what was a highly contentious issue in the 98th Congress," Dole said. "I hope civil rights groups and other interested parties will put aside partisan rhetoric, and approach this bill with an open mind."

Dole did not comment on a competing measure revealed today by Senator Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.), indicating that he had not yet had time to review it. Referring to last year's failed efforts in the Senate to pass Senator Kennedy's proposed "Civil Rights Act of 1984," he stated:

I believe the major reason we were unable to pass legislation overturning Grove City in the last Congress was the concern expressed by many of my colleagues that the bill before the Senate simply went too far. There is no consensus for expanding pre-Grove City coverage; there is consensus for restoring the status quo. We can pass a bill which remains within pre-Grove City parameters, and that is precisely what my proposal does."