

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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DOLE SAYS FUNDING FOR TOPEKA-BASED DATA REPORTING SYSTEM WILL CONTINUE

(Washington, DC) -- Sen. Bob Dole (R-KS) said today an agreement has been reached to renew funding for a Topeka-based data processing service which maintains a nationwide uniform information system for employment programs and unemployment insurance.

The service, Employment Security Systems Institute (ESSI) of Topeka, is funded through the U.S. Department of Labor at an annual cost of \$2.2 million. It is estimated that ESSI's operations generate an additional \$7 to \$8 million in the Topeka economy.

Sen. Dole said of the agreement, "Federal unemployment taxes paid by employers fund jobless insurance programs and the information systems needed to support it. This is exactly the kind of information that employers and administrators need, and I would rather not see ESSI dismantled and some other system set up in its place."

Funding for the project was in doubt when Labor Department officials announced several months ago that ESSI's services would no longer be needed. Sen. Dole acted on complaints from Kansas state officials, receiving assurances that ESSI would receive full funding for the balance of 1985.

Negotiations over future funding culminated in a meeting called by Dole. That meeting brought together top-ranking Labor Department officials, Kansas state government officials, the National Governors' Association, and state employment security associations.

ESSI designs and analyzes computer systems and provides training for personnel in employment agencies in other states, performing data compilations which individual states cannot afford to be maintain.