

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE INTRODUCES CATASTROPHIC HEALTH INSURANCE BILL

WASHINGTON -- SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE (R-KS.) TODAY INTRODUCED HIS OWN CATASTROPHIC HEALTH INSURANCE BILL. -- "THE MEDICARE CATASTROPHIC ILLNESS AMENDMENTS" IS CO-SPONSORED BY SENATORS DANFORTH, DOMENICI, DURENBERGER AND CHAFEE.

"I think all would agree that no one should be faced with the fear of povertization as a result of an illness. The administration's bill, which I introduced several weeks ago, was a real step in the right direction. The bill we are introducing today modifies and adds to this proposal by dealing with additional concerns of the elderly," Dole said.

"As a result of the leadership taken by the President on the issue of catastrophic health insurance, we may well find that a consensus can be achieved in this area this year. And I hope that the 100th Congress will address the problem as it affects those under 65 as well," Dole concluded.

Some of the key elements of the Dole bill include:

- o An \$1800 out-of-pocket limit for Medicare covered expenses and a limit of one hospital deductible in any year.

- o A modification of the home health care benefit to permit up to 21 days of continuous care.

- o Language to insure that an increase in the Part B premium in future years will never result in a reduction in someone's Social Security check.

- o A study to be done by the Institute of Medicine to determine which prescription drugs used by the elderly should be included in a list of drugs for which the cost would count toward an individual's out-of-pocket expenses.