

Bob Dole
U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS



NEWS
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CONTACT: WALT RIKER
(202) 224-5358

DOLE AMENDMENTS TO LABOR/HHS/ED BILL PASS SENATE:
\$500,000 FOR PROGRAM TO ASSIST PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES;
\$450,000 TO BOOST RURAL MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR ELDERLY

WASHINGTON - The United States Senate today approved two amendments proposed by Senator Bob Dole (R-Ks) that will fund a program designed to assist people with disabilities and a program at Kansas State University to promote mental health services for the elderly. The measures were approved during action on the FY92 Senate Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill.

PERSONAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES (PAS) GRANT PROGRAM -- \$500,000

Under Dole's legislation, organizations such as Independence Inc., Lawrence, will be able to compete for \$500,000 to fund a Developmental Disabilities program in Kansas which will develop innovative approaches for a national Personal Assistance Services (PAS) system for people with severe disabilities. Personal assistance services enable people with severe disabilities to carry out activities of daily life through the help of an assistant.

"Everyone should have the opportunity to live independent, productive lives, regardless of a disability -- and this program will help many Kansans with severe disabilities do just that. It will establish a model program that, if successful, can be used to assist many people with disabilities nationwide. When Tim Steinenger of Dodge City testified before a Senate hearing earlier this year, he demonstrated how a PAS program is necessary for him to live an independent and fulfilling life," said Dole. "Well, the Senate listened to Tim and agreed with me to fund this important project."

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY -- \$450,000

The second Dole amendment approved provides \$450,000 to the Human Development & Family Studies Department at Kansas State University to implement the "Enhancing Mental Health Services for Rural Elderly" program. This program will train professionals and service providers on how to best meet elderly mental health needs.

"This program will channel the delivery of mental health care to our nation's elderly -- directly focusing its resources on the elderly in our rural areas, which often lack appropriate mental health services. K-State's program helps address one of our nation's important health care needs," said Dole.

Upon passage by the Senate, the Labor, HHS and Education Appropriations bill containing the Dole amendments will go to a joint House-Senate Conference Committee.

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