

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 12, 1991

CONTACT: WALT RIKER
(202) 224-5358

SCHOOL FUNDING

DOLE PROTECTS FEDERAL FUNDING FOR KANSAS SCHOOLS

WASHINGTON - AT THE URGING OF SENATOR BOB DOLE (R-KS), THE SENATE TODAY PASSED LEGISLATION PREVENTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FROM WITHHOLDING AN ESTIMATED \$12 MILLION IN "IMPACT AID" FROM KANSAS' FINANCIALLY-STRAPPED SCHOOLS. THE MEASURE, CO-SPONSORED BY KANSAS SENATOR NANCY KASSEBAUM AND ADOPTED AS PART OF THIS YEAR'S LABOR, HHS AND EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS BILL, WOULD ALSO BAR A POSSIBLE DEMAND BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR REPAYMENT OF UP TO \$20 MILLION IN EARLIER-DISBURSED FUNDS.

"IMPACT AID" COMPENSATES LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS FOR THE INCREASED STUDENT POPULATION AND TAX REVENUE LOSSES FROM THE PRESENCE OF FEDERAL FACILITIES (SUCH AS MILITARY BASES). A TOTAL OF 75 DISTRICTS STATEWIDE GENERATE IMPACT AID FUNDS. THE DISTRICTS THAT GENERATE THE LARGEST AMOUNT ARE JUNCTION CITY AND LEAVENWORTH. WITHOUT THIS IMPACT AID, LESS MONEY WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR ALL SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN KANSAS.

TO ENSURE THAT THIS MONEY IS FAIRLY DISTRIBUTED TO AFFECTED DISTRICTS, STATES ARE REQUIRED TO DEVELOP "EQUALIZATION" FORMULAS. UNDER A NEW INTERPRETATION OF ITS RULES, THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION WAS CONSIDERING DECLARING KANSAS' LONG-STANDING FORMULA NONCOMPLIANT, RENDERING IT INELIGIBLE FOR FUNDS.

THE DOLE AMENDMENT REAFFIRMS THAT KANSAS' FORMULA MEETS FEDERAL ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS.

"IN VIEW OF KANSAS' EDUCATION FUNDING CRISIS, THIS THREAT COULD HARDLY HAVE ARISEN AT A WORSE TIME," STATED DOLE. "NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, LOSS OF THESE FUNDS WOULD HAVE MADE A TOUGH SITUATION TOUGHER. THIS MEASURE WILL ENSURE THAT KANSAS NOT ONLY KEEPS THE MONEY IT'S ENTITLED TO, BUT ALSO RETAINS THE FLEXIBILITY TO USE FUNDING WHERE IT'S NEEDED MOST".

AT DOLE'S REQUEST, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OFFICIALS WILL BE MEETING WITH KANSAS EDUCATION AUTHORITIES LATER THIS MONTH, TO REVIEW IMPACT AID AND OTHER FUNDING AND REGULATORY ISSUES.

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