

*Bob Dole*



**NEWS**

**U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS**

**FROM:**

**SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **EXTENDED BENEFITS VETO**

PRESIDENT'S VETO PUTS DEMOCRATS TO TEST; GOP PLANS READY TO GO

THIS MORNING'S VETO BY PRESIDENT BUSH OF THE BUDGET BUSTING EXTENDED BENEFITS PLAN HAS FORCED THE DEMOCRATS' HAND. NOW WE'LL SEE IF THE DEMOCRATS ARE TRULY INTERESTED IN EXTENDED BENEFITS -- OR JUST POLITICAL BENEFITS AT THE EXPENSE OF UNEMPLOYED AMERICANS.

TODAY COULD HAVE BEEN A SIGNING CEREMONY IF THE DEMOCRATS HAD DEMONSTRATED ANY INTEREST IN WORKING WITH THE PRESIDENT AND SENATE REPUBLICANS TO CRAFT A RESPONSIBLE BILL. DESPITE THE INTRODUCTION OF TWO DEFICIT-NEUTRAL REPUBLICAN ALTERNATIVES -- ONE OF WHICH GIVES MORE STATES MORE BENEFITS THAN THE DEMOCRATS' PLAN -- THE DEMOCRATS WERE DETERMINED TO GIVE THE PRESIDENT NOTHING BUT A BILL HE COULDN'T SIGN.

I HAVE ASKED THE DEMOCRATS ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS TO SEND BOTH THEIR BILL AND MY BILL TO THE PRESIDENT. IT'S NOW 41 DAYS AND COUNTING SINCE BENEFITS COULD HAVE STARTED UNDER MY ORIGINAL PROPOSAL WHICH THE PRESIDENT SAID HE WOULD SIGN. OF COURSE, THIS FAIR-MINDED APPROACH JUST DOESN'T FIT INTO THEIR ALL-OR-NOTHING PARTISAN SCHEME.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT LEGISLATION THAT'S PAID FOR. THEY'VE HAD IT WITH CONGRESS TURNING A BLIND EYE TO THE DEFICIT AND MORTGAGING OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE. I ALSO THINK THEY'RE TIRED OF POLITICALLY MOTIVATED SHOWDOWNS WITH PRESIDENT BUSH.

NEXT WEEK, THE DEMOCRATS WILL HAVE ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE UP TO THEIR LOFTY RHETORIC WHEN I WILL AGAIN ASK FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO BRING MY UNEMPLOYMENT BILL TO THE FLOOR FOR CONSIDERATION. THEN WE'LL REALLY KNOW WHO'S SERIOUS ABOUT GETTING EXTENDED BENEFIT CHECKS IN THE MAIL AND WHO JUST WANTS TO PLAY POLITICAL GAMES.

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