

Bob Dole



NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

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RURAL HOSPITAL FUNDING

Senate OK's Funding for Key Rural Health Care Programs: Kansas to Share in \$31.1 Million Boost for Rural Hospitals

WASHINGTON -- Rural hospitals in Kansas will get a shot in the arm from funding late Monday by the U.S. Senate, Kansas Senator Bob Dole announced. According to Dole, the Senate has approved \$31.1 million to fund two key programs to increase access to health care in rural states, including Kansas. Prior to final approval by the Senate, a Senate/House conference committee agreed with Senator Dole to boost funding for the rural health care programs in the Health & Human Services Appropriations Bill. The bill now goes to the President for his signature.

Kansas and many of its rural health care facilities will share in the funding under the Essential Access Community Hospital/Rural Primary Care Hospital Program (EACH/PCH) and the Rural Health Care Transition Grant Program. Senator Dole helped create and reauthorize the EACH/PCH program, which has provided more than \$4.8 million to Kansas hospitals during the past two years, and the Senator is once again urging the Department of Health & Human Service to support the state's application for funding. Kansas is one of only seven states to be eligible for funding under this program.

"As we consider reforming America's health care system, we must do what we can to preserve and promote health care delivery in rural communities," Dole said. "These innovative programs have helped improve the delivery of medical services across Kansas, and I'm pleased that our state can look forward to another dose of this good medicine from Washington."

An EACH hospital provides emergency and medical backup services to the primary care hospitals in its network. A PCH hospital is a smaller facility located in a rural area that provides 24-hour emergency care, and devotes no more than six beds to short-term (72-hour) inpatient care to patients requiring stabilization before being transferred to another hospital. States select hospitals for conversion to EACH and PCH hospitals.

The Rural Grant Transition Program assists rural hospitals with fewer than 100 beds in developing and implementing projects to modify the type and extent of services they provide. In Kansas, funding has been used to explore ways to offer new services to dispersed rural populations and to recruit physicians.

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