

*Bob Dole*



**NEWS**

**U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS**

**FROM:**

**SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

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## **NEIGHBORHOOD SECURITY**

### **GOP TRUTH-IN-SENTENCING PLAN KEY TO KEEPING CRIMINALS BEHIND BARS**

Last August, congressional Republicans went on the offensive against crime when we introduced the Neighborhood Security Act. President Clinton soon followed suit, unveiling his own anti-crime proposal.

This focus on crime is long overdue, for America desperately needs a tourniquet, a short-term solution to restore order and staunch the bleeding on our streets.

While America polices Somalia and acts as a traffic cop in Haiti, we can't forget about our own security here at home.

Republicans understand that a criminal kept behind bars will not terrorize a single law-abiding citizen. And the best way to keep criminals behind bars is to make prison sentences count.

Republicans have proposed spending \$3 billion to build and operate new prisons. Each state would be allowed to send its most violent criminals to these prisons, but only if it keeps up its end of the bargain by adopting a reform called truth-in-sentencing. A 15-year prison sentence shouldn't mean 5 years, or 10 years. It should mean 15 years...or a sentence very close to it.

If we had truth-in-sentencing, the father of Michael Jordan would still be alive today.

And if liberal parole policies were ended, Launice Smith, the 4-year-old girl recently gunned down in a Washington playground, would still have a childhood...and a future.

The thugs who committed these crimes all had one thing in common: they all had prior criminal records. They entered our criminal justice system...and then slid through its revolving door...legally, and with tragic consequences.

Do we need more cops on the street? Of course. But we also need to lock up the criminals and keep them there.

Next week, the Senate will consider anti-crime legislation without the benefit of a committee hearing...so before the White House fog machine gets geared up, it's important for the American people to know that, when it comes to fighting crime, there are real differences between the two parties...differences that count...differences that can protect the American people and save lives.

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