

Bob Dole



NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

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BENNETT TO CHAIR SENATE GOP HEALTH CARE TASK FORCE

WASHINGTON -- Senator Robert Bennett (R-Utah) will be the next chairman of the Senate Republican Health Care Task Force, Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole announced today. The Health Care Task Force is a forum for Republican Senators to discuss and deliberate issues related to health care policy. Bennett succeeds Senator John Chafee (R-RI) as chairman of the group.

"I'm pleased that Senator Bennett has agreed to chair this important group," Dole said. "Bob has been an active participant in the task force in the past, and he's demonstrated tremendous expertise across the spectrum of issues involved in health care policy. I look forward to any recommendations the Task Force makes. I would also like to thank John Chafee for his dedication to the task force during the past several years."

Senator Bennett said, "I would like to thank Senator Dole for this honor and opportunity. I also would like to thank Senator John Chafee for his leadership on the task force over the last two years. I couldn't possibly undertake this effort were it not for the experience I've gained while working with him and other Republicans interested in this issue."

"While the media attention to the health care debate has diminished significantly since last year, its importance has not," Bennett added. "We intend to propose action in this Congress, but we must first assess what we've learned from the last one. 'Lessons Learned' will be the topic of our first task force meeting which will be held Thursday, January 26, at 8:30 a.m."

Senator Chafee informed the Republican Leadership that he felt he would not have the time necessary to devote to chairing the Task Force, with his new responsibilities as Chairman of the Senate Environment & Public Works Committee.

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