

Bob Dole



NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, June 6, 1995

Contact: Clarkson Hine
(202) 224-5358

ANTI-TERRORISM BILL

DOLE WELCOMES PRESIDENT'S REVERSAL ON INCLUDING DEATH ROW APPEALS REFORM IN COUNTERTERRORISM BILL

On May 25th, President Clinton wrote to me urging that habeas corpus reform be excluded--excluded--from the anti-terrorism bill now pending before the Senate. The President wrote, and I quote: "While I do not believe that habeas corpus reform should be addressed in the context of the counterterrorism bill, I look forward to working with the Senate in the near future on a bill that would accomplish this important objective."

The President has apparently had a change of heart. Last night, on Larry King Live, the President reversed his position, endorsing the inclusion of habeas reform in the anti-terrorism bill. The President said, and I am quoting again: "We need to cut the time delay on the appeals dramatically, and...It ought to be done in the context of this terrorism legislation so that it would apply to any prosecutions brought against anyone indicted in Oklahoma. And I think it ought to be done."

I welcome the President's remarks. And I am delighted that he has finally come around to our position that, of all the anti-terrorism initiatives now before the Senate, the one that bears most directly on the Oklahoma City tragedy is habeas corpus reform.

Yesterday, the families of some of the victims of the Oklahoma City bombing travelled all the way to Washington to tell their elected representatives that habeas reform is an essential ingredient of any serious anti-terrorism plan.

The families understand, as we do, that if we really want justice that is "swift, certain, and severe," then we must put an end to the endless appeals and delays that have done so much to weaken public confidence in our system of criminal justice. We must have habeas corpus reform...and we must have it now.

It's great news that President Clinton has apparently switched his position and now supports the inclusion of habeas reform in the anti-terrorism bill. Hopefully, the President's support will help speed up the process here in the Senate and enable us to pass this important legislation later tonight.

###

* Remarks delivered on Senate floor, approximately 11:25 a.m.