

Bob Dole



NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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TEENAGE DRUG USE

STATEMENT OF SENATE MAJORITY LEADER BOB DOLE

Earlier today, the Department of Health and Human Services released the results of its 1994 national household survey on drug abuse. According to the survey, marijuana use among teenagers has nearly doubled since 1992, after thirteen straight years of decline.

This troubling fact confirms what we already know: today, our children are smoking more dope, smoking and snorting more cocaine, and smoking and shooting up more heroin than at any time in recent memory.

Unfortunately, while drug use has gone up during the past two-and-half years, the Clinton administration has sat on the sidelines, transforming the war on drugs into a full-scale retreat.

The President has abandoned the moral bully pulpit, cut the staff at the Drug Czar's office by nearly 80 percent, and appointed a Surgeon General who believes the best way to fight illegal drugs is to legalize them. He has presided over an administration that has de-emphasized the interdiction effort, allowed the number of federal drug prosecutions to decline, and overseen a "source country" effort that the General Accounting Office describes as badly managed and poorly coordinated.

Illegal drug use declined throughout the 1980s and early 1990s, so we know how to turn this dangerous problem around. It means sending a clear and unmistakable cultural message that drug use is wrong, stupid, and life-threatening. It means beefing up our interdiction and drug enforcement efforts. It means strengthening our work in the source countries by making clear that good relations with the United States require serious efforts to stop drug exports.

And, yes, it means leadership at the top...starting with the President of the United States.

Today's survey is yet another warning for America. We must renew our commitment to the war on drugs, with or without President Clinton as an ally.

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*Remarks delivered on Senate floor, approximately 4:40 PM.