

Bob Dole



NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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BALANCED BUDGET AGREEMENT

STATEMENT OF SENATE MAJORITY LEADER BOB DOLE

The past few days have been historic ones in Washington, and as we approach Thanksgiving, I believe our children and grandchildren will have a lot to be thankful for.

Last Friday, the Republican Congress provided the leadership the American people have been waiting for, the leadership to do the most important thing we could ever do -- pass a balanced budget for the first time in a generation.

And while President Clinton says he opposes the Republican balanced budget, last night the Republican majority reached agreement with the White House and Congressional Democrats to enact legislation before the end of this year to balance the budget by 2002, using the honest economic estimates of the Congressional Budget Office.

Fighting for America's Future

Throughout these negotiations, Republicans never lost sight of our principles. The Republican Congress is fighting for America's future, by making budget deficits a thing of the past.

And make no mistake, this is all about America's future. We owe it to our children and grandchildren to relieve them of the crushing burden of debt.

We owe all Americans an economy with lower interest rates, so that more people can buy a car, buy farm machinery, take out a college loan, or realize the dream of home-ownership.

We owe it to hard-working Americans to relieve them of the debt that stifles opportunity and job creation.

We owe it to America's seniors to save Medicare from bankruptcy.

We owe it to working families to give them back more of their own money.

We owe it to Americans trapped in a failed welfare system to create a new system based on work, hope, and opportunity.

Keeping Promises to American People

And, we owe it to the American people to keep our promises.

The agreement we reached late yesterday is not the end -- it's only the beginning. But it starts the process in the framework of seven years, estimated by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office. In my view, that's a framework for a balanced budget that will meet all of our commitments. And it's also a framework enthusiastically endorsed by a majority of the nations governors. I just spoke to the Republican Governors Association, and they look forward to Congress and the President completing the task of implementing a seven-year balanced budget.

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