

*Bob Dole*



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## NATIONAL DRUG POLICY

### DOLE-GINGRICH CONVENE CONGRESSIONAL TASK FORCE TO RAISE PUBLIC AWARENESS & CHART ANTI-DRUG "ACTION PLAN"

As Congress debates Bosnia and the budget, we are here today to shine the public spotlight on another important issue--the disturbing rise in illegal drug use by our nation's teenagers.

During the past year, study after study has reached the same alarming conclusion: our children are using more dope, more cocaine, and more heroin than at any time in recent memory. We cannot allow these trends to continue.

#### Address Disturbing Rise in Teenage Drug Use

I want to take this opportunity to wish Lee Brown, the drug czar who resigned yesterday, the very best as he begins his new life at Rice University. But let's face it: Dr. Brown never had a chance. From day one, this administration has regrettably failed to make the war on drugs the top priority it should be.

So, today, Speaker Gingrich and I are convening this task force to fill the leadership void.

Under the direction of Chuck Grassley, Orrin Hatch, Bill Zeff, and Henry Hyde, the Task Force will be charged with raising public awareness about the drug problem, getting the top experts together, and providing us with an antidrug "action plan" for the coming year. This is a tall order, but I am confident we have put together a group whose commitment and energy can get the job done.

#### Media Can Help Get Antidrug Message Out

Finally, I want to make a pitch directly to the media: Please. Help us get the antidrug message out to America's young people.

Jim Burke, the Chairman of the Partnership for a Drug-Free America, tells us that drug use declined so dramatically in the 1980s in large part because the media helped spread the message that drug use was both wrong and life-threatening. Drug use, in other words, was stigmatized by our culture. The "Just Say No" campaign worked.

Today, in the 1990s, our children will respond to the same antidrug message, but they must hear it first. We must do a better job here in Washington, and it's my hope that America's cultural leaders will show more leadership as well.

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### TASK FORCE ON NATIONAL DRUG POLICY

#### Co-Chairmen

Senator Chuck Grassley  
Senator Orrin Hatch  
Representative Bill Zeff  
Representative Henry Hyde

#### Task Force Members

Senator Spence Abraham  
Senator John Ashcroft  
Senator Paul Coverdell  
Senator Al D'Amato  
Senator Mike DeWine  
Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison  
Senator Olympia Snowe  
Representative Michael Forbes  
Representative Ben Gilman  
Representative Bill McCollum  
Representative Rob Portman  
Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen  
Representative Clay Shaw  
Representative J.C. Watts