

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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DOLE ANNOUNCES OLD SENATE CHAMBER NOW ACCESSIBLE TO DISABLED

WASHINGTON -- Incoming Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole announced today that a ramp has been installed to make the Old Senate Chamber in the U.S. Capitol accessible to individuals who use wheelchairs or have other mobility impairments. In a December 29 letter to Architect of the Capitol George M. White, Dole asked that the necessary construction be completed by the opening of the 104th Congress.

"This ramp is a welcome mat for people with disabilities. In my view, the Capitol is an important symbol of our open and representative government, and it should be equally available to all Americans," Dole stated.

Located on the second floor of the Capitol Building, the Old Senate Chamber, where the Senate resided from 1810-1859, is among the most popular visitor attractions in the Capitol Building. According to the Congressional Special Services Office, which arranges tours and other services for visitors with disabilities, at least 1,500 wheelchair users visited the Capitol in 1994, and another 4,000 persons with other disabilities requested special tours.

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act, state and local governments must complete any architectural and structural changes needed to make their services accessible by January 26, 1995. Dole said his staff would meet with the Architect of the Capitol to ensure all mandatory architectural modifications would be complete by the designated deadline.

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