

# Congressman BOB MICHEL

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## STATEMENT OF ROBERT H. MICHEL, REPUBLICAN LEADER MARCH 12, 1991

I am pleased to join the Senate Republican Leader in announcing the introduction of the President's Civil Rights Act of 1991. This legislation has the full backing of the Republican Leadership Task Force on Civil Rights, and the support of a wide range of Republican members of the House.

This bill meets three essential tests that the Democrats' alternative, H.R.1, does not meet. It is fair, it is effective, and if passed, it will be signed by the President.

This bill is fair because it makes important changes in law that will strengthen civil rights protections. Unlike H.R. 1, it will not lead to *de facto* quotas, which the American people have rejected as intrinsically unfair. The President's bill stresses unity, not divisiveness.

It also will be a far more effective piece of legislation. Where H.R. 1 encourages endless litigation, we encourage better deterrence to harassment in the first place. In my mind, deterrence, not lawyers' fees, should be the primary goal of any civil rights bill.

Finally, the President sincerely desires to sign a civil rights bill this session. Our bill will be signed by the President. H.R. 1 will not.

I commend my colleagues on the Republican Leadership Task Force, Chairman Henry Hyde, Bill Goodling, Bill McCollum, Howard Coble, Steve Gunderson, Harris Fawell, Fred Grandy, Susan Molinari, and Gary Franks. They reviewed all the alternatives and today endorse the President's bill.