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SENATOR BOB DOLE
RECEIVED
AUG 5 1974
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20510

Garden City, Ks.
July 31, 1974

Sen. Robert Dole
3277 Senate Office Building
Washington D.C.

Dear Sen. Dole,

After supervising two project for the aged, I have made several observations that in my opinion are very disturbing. Then reading an article by Jack Anderson June 19, 1974 entitled "The Poor Eating Cheap Dog Food" to say the least it is sickening.

Each program the Red Cross has worked with we as volunteers have spent many hours trying to convince the elderly they will not be on Welfare if they use the food stamps. And in both programs- Project Find (Food Stamps and the S.S.I.A. Project- Social Security) their hopes are raised only to find they do not qualify. I'd like for someone to explain to me how these people are "helped" when this happens over and over.

People of the senior years have worked hard and are proud that they have taken care of them selves all these years. Then suddenly through no fault of their own they are striped of their dignity by having to ask for help just to exist. And that is about all some of them are doing.

If the aged are to really be helped new requirments for the 60 year old and older people should be set up separate from regular welfare clientel. The food stamps are desperately needed, but because of money or savings of a few hundred dollars over the rule keeps them from getting the food stamps. These senior citizens would rather starve than go to the Welfare. These food stamps should be moved away from the Welfare Office. I know its a matter of dollars, but some of these administrative expenses could be better spent by the government in this way.

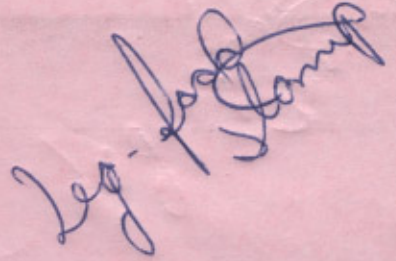
I feel that we are doing these people an injustic by encouraging them when we are reasonably sure of the out come. They would be better of left alone than to have their hopes for help dashed time and again.

Not one time in two years that I have volunteered working with elderly projects has any government official ever contacted us and asked what we found, what would improve the problem. It gives on the feeling that the final report on paper is the only thing that matters to anyone. The people sitting in offices do not know or care about what these projects find. And if our tax dollars are to be spent on such projects I think its about time the money is put with the people that need it and not some administrator.

I for one do not have the stomach for anymore project with no more future in for these people than what past projects have produced. Both projects I have worked with cover 8-10 counties. Won't you as a Sen. please try and do something about really helping these people instead of making it look like a good ideas in the papers.

[Redacted]
Garden City, Kansas

August 21, 1974



[redacted]
[redacted]
Garden City, Kansas 67846

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your very thoughtful letter of July 31st expressing your concern over the eligibility for food stamps and related matters concerning the problems of elderly people in need.

I, too, am concerned about these problems. As a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee which oversees food stamps, I am aware of most of the problems in this area. As of July 1st, the monthly allotments and purchase requirements have been revised. Enclosed is a copy of that chart.

I hope you will continue to give me the benefit of your views. If I can be of further assistance at any time, be sure to let me know.

Sincerely yours,

BOB DOLE
United States Senate

BD:mkz
Enclosure