

6/20/2008 Moran Supports Passage of 21st Century GI Bill

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Bill Makes Historical Enhancements to Education Benefits for Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans

WASHINGTON, D.C. - More than 60 years after the first GI Bill passed Congress to take care of our men and women who served in World War II, Congressman Jerry Moran this week voted for passage of historic changes to modernize the GI Bill. The bill delivers enhanced education benefits to military veterans who have served since September 11, 2001.

"Our soldiers are investing in our country through their service," Moran said. "It is our duty to invest in them by providing these overdue educational benefits. By providing an education, we in turn further invest in our families and communities. It was past time to increase the value of the educational benefit for those putting their lives on the line everyday for our freedoms."

The current Montgomery GI Bill is outdated and not meeting many of the needs of service members returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, particularly members of the Guard and Reserve. The new GI Bill will fully fund the cost of a four-year education by providing tuition and fees for enrollment in public colleges, monthly housing payments and money for books and supplies. Veterans have up to 15 years after they leave active duty to use the education benefits and those who stay in the military also have the option to transfer their benefits to their spouses and children.

Moran sponsored the House bill that updates and expands the current Montgomery GI Bill, H.R. 5740 - the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008. Moran is a senior member of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs and has participated in hearings on this topic for the past two years.

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