

## 02/04/2009 Moran Named Co-Chair of Rural Health Care Coalition

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WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Jerry Moran was selected by fellow Republican Members of Congress to serve as the Co-Chairman of the Rural Health Care Coalition (RHCC). Currently, the RHCC is comprised of 151 members from under-served states all over the country, and is committed to advancing rural priorities in health care policy. Moran will join Congressman Earl Pomeroy to lead this bipartisan group.

"Access to health care is one of the most important issues we face in Congress," Moran said. "In under-served areas, having access to a hospital, a community pharmacy, long-term care and a local health professional is a necessity. Health care is not just about the quality of life, it's about the lives of our citizens and the survival of their communities. I'm honored to lead in this effort."

"Congressional members of the Rural Health Caucus have recognized Congressman Moran for what we've known in Kansas for three decades - that he is committed to a healthy rural America," said Dr. Rick Kellerman, Professor and Chair, Department of Family and Community Medicine, University of Kansas School of Medicine - Wichita. "The announcement of his selection as Co-Chair of the Rural Health Care Coalition is good for Kansas and good for the country."

The RHCC was founded in 1986 by members of Congress who felt that work done for the health care system at the federal level had been overlooking the health care needs and concerns of people in under-served areas in America. Since its inception, the RHCC has been an active and effective force in Congress and has been successful in making improvements and extending the life of the Medicare program while taking steps to eliminate waste and fraud. They have also worked to maintain funding important to rural health care.

The RHCC established the Office of Rural Health Policy within the Department of Health and Human Services, the Rural Health Transition Grant Program and helped form the Critical Access Hospital program. Recently, the RHCC successfully enacted the largest rural health package with the passage of the Medicare Modernization Act. This law made long overdue corrections to significant flaws in Medicare payment schemes that have made a tremendous difference to the hospitals, doctors and other providers in Kansas, North Dakota and throughout the nation.

The RHCC provides a powerful voice to under-served areas in America in Congress by fighting for adequate funding for programs and Medicare reimbursement to meet the unique needs of these areas.

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