

## 3/12/2009 Moran Brings Kansas Veterans' Priorities to VA Secretary

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WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Jerry Moran addressed Department of Veterans' Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki at a Veterans Affairs Committee hearing this week where the Secretary discussed the VA's fiscal year 2010 budget and priorities. Moran's involvement with veterans issues will continue to increase this year as he was asked by the Committee's Ranking Member, Congressman Steve Buyer, to serve on the Republican Policy Committee (RPC) to develop legislative initiatives that support veterans.

"It is vital that Congress maintain strong benefits and health care services for our nation's military men and women and our veterans," Moran said. "We need to ensure timely access to care, support veterans health care and make certain that they receive the benefits they have earned."

During the Committee hearing, Moran asked Sec. Shinseki about additional enrollment for Priority 8 veterans in VA medical care, timely VA funding and discussed implementation of his Rural Veterans Access to Care Act that was passed last year. The legislation will allow rural Kansas veterans to participate in a demonstration project to obtain health care in their home communities so that they avoid traveling long distances to VA facilities.

"My involvement with VA issues has always been a top priority for me. By serving on the Republican Policy Committee, I will make sure that veterans issues remain a priority for Congress," Moran continued.

As a representative for the House Veterans Affairs Committee, Moran will serve on the RPC as an active voice for veterans and other issues important to Kansas and the country. RPC is a forum for the party to develop forward-looking legislative initiatives.

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