

## 3/28/2003 Moran Supports Improvement to Child Protection Laws

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#### House-Passed Legislation Allows Better Response to Kidnappings

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Jerry Moran today supported legislation that would improve response time to child kidnappings by implementing a nationwide AMBER Alert system. This system will help Kansans get information out quickly when a child is abducted and will assist law enforcement to recover a missing child.

"Earlier this month, parents across the nation were overjoyed by the news that Utah teen, Elizabeth Smart, came home safe after being kidnapped and held for nine months," Moran said. "While this case resulted in a happy ending, many do not. That's what makes programs like the AMBER Alert so important."

America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response, or AMBER, is a voluntary partnership between local law enforcement and radio and television broadcasters. In the most serious child-abduction cases, an urgent bulletin is aired with the description of the missing child and suspected abductor only minutes after a kidnapping is reported.

Last fall, Moran worked to bring more attention to the AMBER Alert Program by working with the Kansas Association of Broadcasters and Kansas law enforcement, encouraging participation in the program. Currently over 200 Kansas radio and television stations are taking part in the program.

"I applaud the Kansas Association of Broadcasters for being a leader in getting broadcasters and law enforcement in our state involved in this program," Moran said. "Though we hope that these programs never have to be used, we must all work together in our communities to protect our children."

The AMBER Alert program implementation was a part of broader legislation that works to protect children and increase penalties against violators.

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