

7/25/2003 Moran Works to Lower Prescription Drug Prices

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WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Jerry Moran today announced that the House of Representatives has passed legislation to help Kansans access more affordable prescription medicines. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that seniors will spend \$1.8 trillion on prescription drugs in the next ten years. This legislation could save Americans 35 percent, or \$635 billion, on their drug costs.

"Americans pay the highest prices for prescription drugs - more than any country in the world," Moran said. "Drug prices in the U.S. are 30 to 300 percent more than they are in Europe and other industrialized nations. This legislation implements safeguards so that Kansans can safely access lower-priced prescription medicines from other countries."

The legislation would establish regulations for individuals, pharmacists and wholesalers to "reimport" prescription medication from pre-approved foreign countries. As with all medication in the U.S., the imported drugs would be approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and be produced in FDA-standard facilities. It would also require a prescription from a physician. In addition, all packaging for the drugs would have to be in counterfeit-resistant packaging.

"Currently it is estimated that around 10 million Americans already travel across international borders to buy prescription drugs at a discounted rate," Moran said. "This legislation makes it safer and easier for people to access more affordable prescription medication."

"Lowering the costs of health care is a high priority of mine in Congress and this is a step towards accomplishing that," Moran concluded. "The fight has been long and hard-fought, with intense opposition that has slowed the progress. Although there is still more work to be done, Kansans young and old can now see some real hope for lowering the cost of their medication."

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