

9/25/2003 Moran Works to Bring Veterans' Health Care Services Closer to Home

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Legislation Works to Cut Wait Times for VA Appointments

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Jerry Moran today sponsored legislation that would allow the Veterans Administration (VA) to pay for veterans in rural areas to receive routine health care services closer to home. The Rural Veterans Access to Care Act would allow the VA to contract for care with local health care facilities for veterans in rural areas in order for them to receive the medical care they need. Moran is a member of the House Subcommittee on Veterans' Health.

"Some Kansas veterans are forced to wait months to get a doctor's appointment and then have to travel hundreds of miles to receive necessary care," Moran said. "Our veterans have fought in both world wars, Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf and in other conflicts and have medical conditions that make it difficult to travel."

The bill would set aside VA medical care funding in order to contract with local hospitals and clinics to serve certain rural veterans. While this legislation would allow enrolled veterans who live in rural areas to seek health care closer to home, this legislation would not take funding away from the treatment of veterans.

"This legislation will cut the wait time, keep veterans closer to home and help our local health care facilities keep their doors open," Moran concluded.

The Veterans' Health Subcommittee is scheduled to consider this legislation, next week.

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