

10/14/2003 Moran Works for Additional Funding to Fight Methamphetamine

Moran Works for Additional Funding to Fight Methamphetamine

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Jerry Moran today urged Appropriations Committee leadership to fully fund programs that provide first responders and drug enforcement officers with additional means to combat methamphetamine production, trafficking and use in Kansas and across the country.

"Although Kansas law enforcement has made tremendous strides in curbing meth production in our state, the drug is still out there, threatening our children and our communities, and more work needs to be done," Moran said. "Last year, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and state and local law enforcement officials busted 9,753 meth labs, but an alarming 12 percent of America's youth have used methamphetamine."

Moran is working with Members of Congress who make funding decisions for the Department of Justice, requesting their support for the federal COPS and Byrne Grant programs to control illegal drug use and production. The programs provide assistance to local law enforcement agencies to help purchase equipment and train officers to deal with methamphetamine and other crime. This year, Kansas received \$7.7 million from the COPS program.

Moran is also working with Members who make funding decisions for the Office of National Drug Control Policy, urging their support of a \$20 million increase in High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) funding. The HIDTA program identifies high-volume areas of methamphetamine use and provides additional assistance to law enforcement in those areas. All of these programs not only help law enforcement identify and dismantle labs, but also help break the cycle of other crimes associated with methamphetamine use - such as domestic violence, child abuse and theft.

"Two-thirds of all meth labs seized are found in rural areas," Moran said. "As law enforcement continues their work to fight methamphetamine, we need to provide them with the necessary tools and technology to win the battle."

###