

## 5/23/2007 New Regulations Cause Delay in Obtaining Passports

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Moran Advises Kansans to Apply for U.S. Passports 15 Weeks in Advance of Travel

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WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Jerry Moran today advised Kansans with plans to travel outside of the country in the coming months to apply for passports at least 15 weeks in advance. Due to new regulations imposed by the U.S. Departments of Homeland Security and State, many Kansans are experiencing delays with the processing of U.S. passport applications.

The new regulations went into effect earlier this year and require all U.S. citizens to present a valid U.S. passport in order to travel by air to any part of the Western Hemisphere. Though passports were not required in the past, Americans flying to Canada, Mexico or anywhere in the Caribbean now need a valid U.S. passport. Because of the new regulations, the processing time for passport applications is now taking approximately 15 weeks.

Moran has contacted the State Department to express concern with the delays and with the difficulties Kansans are experiencing with the passport toll-free hotline.

For more information about U.S. passports, visit the State Department's Web site at: <http://www.state.gov/travelandbusiness/>. Moran's district offices are also available to answer questions pertaining to the application process and to help obtain information regarding pending passport applications. Staff in Moran's Hays Office can be reached at 785-628-6401, in Hutchinson at 620-665-6138 and in Salina at 785-309-0572. Information is also available on Moran's Web site at [www.jerrymoran.house.gov/](http://www.jerrymoran.house.gov/).

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