

9/04/2007 Moran and Former KBI Director Larry Welch Meet with Kansas Law Enforcement

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Discuss Needs and Challenges of Law Enforcement Officers as Part of Welch Fellowship

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EMPORIA - Congressman Jerry Moran and former Kansas Bureau of Investigation Director Larry Welch recently met with Kansas county sheriffs to discuss current challenges facing Kansas law enforcement. As part of a congressional fellowship in which Welch is participating this fall, he and Moran are conducting meetings with all levels of law enforcement - from sheriffs and city police officers in Kansas to leaders of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) in Washington, D.C.

"While we have made progress in the fight against methamphetamine manufactured in our state, what I heard from the sheriffs is that more work is needed to fight this drug that targets our towns - both large and small," Moran said. "Importation from Mexico has presented new challenges to law enforcement officers who are being forced to change and adapt to the many new ways used to break the law. Their message to me is clear - only through a combined effort of all levels of government will we be able to keep our Kansas communities safe."

Moran and Welch spent a day riding along with Kansas City, Kansas, Police Chief Sam Breshears. Moran also met with other Kansas City law enforcement personnel to discuss challenges facing the urban police force. In another meeting, Moran and Welch met with county sheriffs from across east-central Kansas for a discussion about the ongoing battle against meth and the progress made in part through federal assistance obtained by Moran.

Joining Moran and Welch for the meeting were KBI Assistant Director Larry Thomas and DEA Acting Resident Agent Tyler Graham of Wichita. The group met with law enforcement officers from several east-central Kansas counties, including Lyon County Sheriff Gary Eichorn, Lyon County Undersheriff Richard Old, Chase County Sheriff Richard Dornecker, Anderson County Sheriff Scot Brownrigg, Coffey County Sheriff Randy Rogers, Greenwood County Sheriff Mark Kenneson, Butler County Sheriff Craig Murphy, Woodson County Sheriff David Waddell, Shawnee County Undersheriff Scott Holladay, and Lieutenant Jay McLaurian of the Sedgwick County Sheriff's office.

As a member of the Congressional Meth Caucus, Moran has worked to obtain federal funding to assist in the prevention of production and the treatment for use of meth in Kansas.

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