

10/11/2007 Moran Honors Kansas Couple for Opening Home to Children Exposed to Meth

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Keller's Recognized as "Angel in Adoption" at National Event in Washington, D.C.

HOME CITY - Congressman Jerry Moran recently nominated Nick and Jennifer Keller of Home City as a 2007 "Angel in Adoption" for their advocacy of adoption issues and care for children who were exposed to methamphetamine while in the womb. The Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI) honored the Keller's last week in Washington, D.C.

"Nick and Jennifer are the parents of a remarkable family with an amazing story," Moran said. "Their humble work to help drug endangered children - both by influencing public policy and by giving children a home - is inspiring. The Keller's are making a real difference in the lives of children and truly are angels for those in need."

During a period of three years, the Keller's and their daughter, Brooke, have opened their home to six children, each of whom was exposed to methamphetamine while in the womb. The children range from six months to eight years old. The presence of illegal drugs, specifically meth, is a very serious problem in many rural Kansas communities and threatens families and children, including the unborn. Each year, more than 4,300 Kansas children are exposed to illegal drugs while in the womb. Based on their experiences as adoptive parents, the Keller's are advocating for legislation in Kansas to better protect children by allowing authorities to intervene when a pregnant woman is using substances and putting her child at risk.

Recognizing the destructive impact of methamphetamine use, Moran has worked to obtain federal funding to assist Kansas law enforcement combat meth. Former Kansas Bureau of Investigation Director Larry Welch is serving as a congressional fellow in Moran's office this fall to help Moran better understand the challenges Kansas law enforcement

face in stopping meth production and distribution.

"The fight against meth requires the cooperation of all members of a community," Moran said. "The Keller's are an example of caring Kansans doing what they can to break the cycle of meth in our state."

Moran is a member of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Caucus and the Congressional Caucus to Fight and Control Methamphetamine.

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