

11/21/2007 Moran Thanks Kansas Volunteers

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Sponsors Legislation to Provide Benefits to Volunteers in Disaster Areas

GREENSBURG - Congressman Jerry Moran this week expressed his thanks to volunteers and announced his support for legislation that will allow more Kansans to respond to the needs of neighbors in disaster areas. The Assistance for Individuals Delivering (AID) for America Act creates a federal tax credit for businesses that continue to pay employees while they volunteer in federal disaster zones.

"Kansans have seen the worst of Mother Nature this year," Moran said. "From the tornado that destroyed Greensburg to the floods in southeast Kansas, the people of our state have been generous in extending help to those in need. This legislation builds upon Kansans' spirit of giving by allowing more individuals to take time off of work to volunteer during times of disaster."

The AID for America Act would provide compensation to companies that give employees paid time off by providing the employer with a tax credit worth 50 percent of an employee's salary. The tax credit would not be allowed to exceed \$3,000 a month and could only be applied for a three month period.

"Volunteering in disaster areas benefits everyone," said Kathleen Blair, Director of the South Central Kansas Tornado Recovery Organization. "I have seen how encouraged and uplifted the people of Greensburg are when volunteers come to help them. I have also seen how the volunteers are challenged by having to live and work in a disaster area and how they personally grow through that experience."

Of the 69 counties Moran represents in the First Congressional District, 64 have been declared federal disaster areas this year. In Greensburg, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reports that more than 1,300 individuals have volunteered since the deadly tornado. The work of these volunteers totals more than 26,000 hours.

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