

12/19/2007 Moran Announces Historic Changes to Veterans Mileage Reimbursement Rate

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WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Jerry Moran today announced historic changes to the mileage reimbursement rate for veterans traveling to Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities. The increase from 11 cents to 28.5 cents per mile was included in the final passage of legislation that funds the VA for 2008. Moran successfully offered the amendment to raise the rate increase during House consideration of the bill in June. This is the first increase in the mileage reimbursement rate for veterans since 1978.

"We have made great strides in improving health care services and access for veterans in Kansas," Moran said. "But those services are of no use if veterans cannot afford the trip. Veterans in rural areas face longer driving times and with today's high gas prices, many are not able to cover the cost of visiting the doctor. I applaud my colleagues for recognizing the need for this long overdue increase. The final passage of this rate increase is one more step that helps fulfill our promise to take care of our veterans."

Qualifying veterans are currently compensated at the rate of 11 cents per mile for routine medical visits and 17 cents per mile for disability rating examinations. While this rate has not been changed in the last 30 years, federal employees continue to see an increase in mileage reimbursement rates as gas prices rise. Moran has worked on this issue since first being elected to Congress.

Moran is a senior member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee where he serves on the Subcommittee on Health.

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