

12/21/2007 Moran Secures Funding to Fight Meth, Protect Law Enforcement

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Kansas Bureau of Investigation Money to Target Meth, Purchase New Gear

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Jerry Moran today announced final passage of funding for the Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI) to target the importation of methamphetamine and purchase protective vests. The funding was included in legislation that funds the Department of Justice for 2008. The KBI will receive \$141,000 for the Rural Kansas Methamphetamine Program and \$70,500 for ballistic vests to replace outdated gear currently used by KBI personnel.

"KBI officials and law enforcement officers place their lives on the line every day to protect Kansans," Moran said. "Any resources we can provide to see that their safety is enhanced is money well spent. Methamphetamine continues to have a devastating impact on communities across Kansas. The funding will help local, state and federal officials work together to combat this dangerous drug."

While laws limiting over-the-counter pseudoephedrine sales have helped reduce the number of meth producing laboratories in Kansas, the amount of meth being imported into the state has increased. The funding will be used for training, equipment and overtime pay for joint KBI and local department cooperative investigations on meth importation. The funding for new gear will enhance the safety of KBI personnel. The money will be used to replace the majority of KBI ballistic vests, which are more than 10 years old and past the manufacturer's certification.

"We would like to thank Congressman Moran for his continued support of Kansas law enforcement in the fight against illegal drugs in rural Kansas, as well as his support of the KBI in obtaining funding for the improved ballistic vests," KBI Director Robert E. Blecha said.

As a member of the Congressional Meth Caucus, Moran has worked to prevent production and usage of meth in Kansas. Earlier this year, Moran toured the KBI Headquarters in Topeka and met with Director Bob Blecha. This fall, Moran hosted former KBI director Larry Welch in a congressional fellowship to learn more about the needs and challenges of Kansas law enforcement officers. Moran and Welch spent time in Kansas and Washington, D.C., meeting with all levels of law enforcement - from sheriffs and city police officers to leaders of the Drug Enforcement Administration.

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