

1/31/2008 Moran: Veterans Mileage Reimbursement Rate Increase to Take Effect Tomorrow

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WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Jerry Moran today announced the veterans mileage reimbursement rate increase will go into effect on February 1, 2008, for veterans traveling to Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities. Moran successfully offered an amendment to increase the rate during House consideration of the 2008 VA funding bill last year, which was signed into law in December. Veterans traveling to VA medical facilities will see an increase from 11 cents to 28.5 cents per mile.

"Veterans have been waiting for 30 years for an increase to their travel reimbursement rate and our nation has finally responded," Moran said. "I have worked on this issue since first coming to Congress. It is good to see Congress and the President come together to make improvements in how our nation cares for veterans, especially those living in rural areas. Many Kansas veterans must travel several hours to access VA care. In a time of rising gas prices, more than doubling the rate of their reimbursement means the ability to afford a trip to the doctor. I am glad the VA worked to implement the change right away this year."

This is the first increase in the travel reimbursement rate for veterans since 1978. Qualifying veterans were previously compensated at the rate of 11 cents per mile for routine medical visits. The increase to 28.5 cents per mile will assist more than one million veterans as they travel to VA medical facilities.

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

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