

2/28/2008 Moran Announces Social Security to Hire New Workers to Reduce Backlog in Kansas

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Commends SSA for Plan to Reduce Wait Times

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Jerry Moran today announced the Social Security Administration (SSA) is hiring two new judges to decide disability claims in Kansas. Over the past several years, the number of Kansans waiting for SSA to issue a decision grew to more than 14,000, in part due to a lack of judges. The hiring of new judges is one aspect of the organization's plan to reduce the backlog.

"It is unacceptable that Kansans have had to wait months and even years for the Social Security Administration to decide whether an individual qualifies for disability benefits," Moran said. "The hiring of additional judges is a step in the right direction to providing Kansans with more timely service. I will encourage SSA to continue doing all it can to reduce wait times."

Moran met with Commissioner Michael Astrue, the head of SSA, in November to emphasize the importance of fixing the disability claims backlog. During the meeting, Commissioner Astrue outlined SSA's plans to speed up the hearing process, which included hiring new judges, creating the National Hearing Center and implementing technological improvements. Moran also advocated for increased federal funding for SSA to implement its plan to reduce the backlog.

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