



*Congressman*  
**JERRY MORAN**

*Representing the First District of Kansas  
United States House of Representatives*

Dear Friend:

As we conclude the 1999 legislative session, I wanted to update you on the progress made on several issues affecting Kansas seniors.

Protecting the Social Security Trust Fund and maintaining health care in our communities were two of my priorities during this session of Congress.

Fortunately we have had some successes. For the first time in a generation, the budget has been balanced without using the Social Security Trust Fund "surplus." With recent passage of the Medicare Relief Act, the chances of keeping hospital doors open and maintaining access to health care in Kansas have increased.

While some progress was made, there is much more to accomplish. I am committed to making certain that Congress and the President maintain the long-term stability of Social Security and Medicare. I am also working to reauthorize the Older Americans Act.

Many of you have contacted me on these issues, and I value your opinions. Please take a few minutes to read the additional information provided in this update. I welcome any comments and suggestions you may have.

Very truly yours,

*Jerry*



Congressman Moran talks with a Lyons resident at a town meeting.

# SOCIAL SECURITY SURPLUS PRESERVED

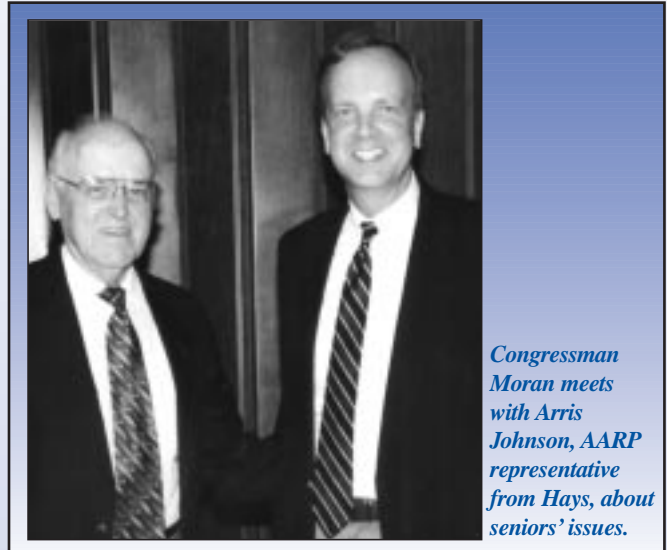
*For First Time in 40 years, Budget Balanced  
Without Raiding Social Security*

Congressman Moran understands the importance of Social Security in helping make ends meet. His parents are among the nearly 128,000 residents of the First Congressional District who receive Social Security benefits.

Unfortunately, seniors are not the only ones who have used the program to make ends meet. Since 1960, politicians in Washington have spent excess Social Security revenues on other government programs.

Using Social Security Trust Fund dollars made the deficit look smaller and allowed Washington to spend beyond its means. Thirty-nine years of raiding Social Security has left the trust fund with \$886 billion in IOUs.

This year, for the first time since Eisenhower was President, Congress balanced the budget without tapping the Social Security surplus. Congressman Moran was instrumental in



*Congressman  
Moran meets  
with Arris  
Johnson, AARP  
representative  
from Hays, about  
seniors' issues.*

making the tough decisions necessary to protect Social Security.

“Social Security is our largest and most important federal program. We have an obligation to protect it. We also have an obligation to make ends meet in Washington without raiding Social Security. This year we did the right thing. Now we must continue to hold the line on spending, pay down the national debt and ensure the solvency of this vital program for today’s seniors and future generations,” said Moran.

## Moran Bill to Lock Up Social Security Surplus

On March 2, 1999, Congressman Moran introduced legislation to wall off Social Security from other programs in the federal budget. For years, accounting gimmicks have been used that count excess revenues from the Social Security program against spending on other programs to mask the true size of the federal deficit.

Moran’s bill would prohibit

the federal government from using the Social Security surplus in the calculation of the federal deficit. In May, Congress passed the “Social Security and Medicare Lockbox Act of 1999.” This bill incorporated the same reform concepts first introduced in the Moran bill. Congressman Moran’s bill also dedicates federal budget surpluses over the next 10 years to the

reduction of our national debt.

“Today, fourteen percent of the federal budget, over \$240 billion, goes to pay interest on the national debt. That’s nearly as much as we spend on national defense and more than we spend on Medicare and agriculture combined. The sooner we get our fiscal house in order, the sooner we can address other priority areas that need attention,” said Moran.

## Congress Makes Health Research a Priority

This year Congress increased the medical research budget at the National Institutes of Health by more than 14%. The expanded effort will provide over \$3 billion for cancer research, \$690 million for aging research, \$2 billion for the Heart, Lung and Blood Institute and \$1 billion to study stroke and brain disorders.

Recent years have brought exciting advances in the understanding and treatment of diseases once thought incurable. Even as Congress works to pay down the national debt and balance the budget, Congressman Moran believes this research must remain a priority.

### Thomas-Moran Health Care Bill

- **Protects small rural hospitals**
- **Increases funding for home health care**
- **Works to send physicians and health professionals to rural communities**
- **Reduces out-of-pocket costs for Medicare patients**

## Congress Passes Bill to Boost Rural Health Care

The Medicare program has become the single largest purchaser of health services in Kansas. The way Medicare pays hospitals, nursing homes and home health providers in the First District has a tremendous effect on whether or not health care is available in Kansas communities.



*Chairman Thomas and Representative Moran hold a town hall meeting on health care in McPherson.*

Congressman Moran has made health care one of his top legislative priorities. In 1997, he voted against Medicare cuts and predicted that they would have devastating effects on health care providers in rural communities. As a result of the Medicare cuts that caused many Kansas health care providers to close their doors and cut services, Congressman Moran introduced the Rural Health Improvement Act in order to restore Medicare funds to Kansas' health care providers.

Moran also invited the Chairman of the Health Subcommittee, Congressman Bill Thomas of California, to Kansas to see firsthand the challenges that health professionals are facing. Thomas and Moran met with home health nurses, doctors, hospitals and nursing home staff, and seniors who laid out the challenges and offered their solutions. Moran then joined Chairman Thomas in introducing legislation to address this crisis. On November 18th, Congress passed their bill, which restores \$11.5 billion that was cut from the Medicare program in 1997.

According to Moran, "The passage of the Medicare Relief Act was a positive step in improving the way Congress treats rural areas. Having health care isn't just good medicine, it also means that Kansas communities are places where families young and old will want to live."

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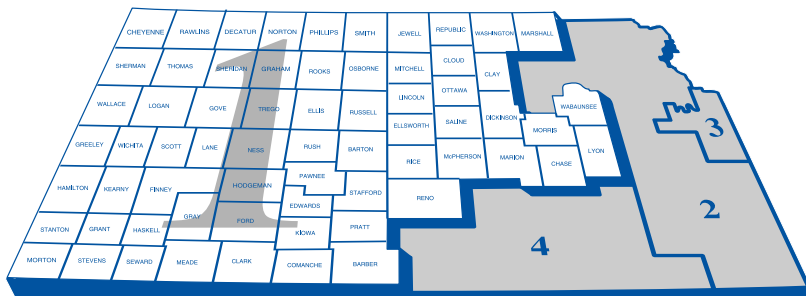
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# Congressman Jerry Moran



## Representing the 1st District of Kansas

*Jerry Moran*

M.C.  
BULK RATE

This mailing was prepared, published and mailed at taxpayer expense.

## THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT MUST BE RESTORED

*Moran works to help seniors remain active in their communities*

The next century can be a golden age for seniors. With life expectancy increasing, it is predicted that older people will outnumber children for the first time in history. America's seniors are more physically and mentally fit than ever before. Yet, with these positive changes will also come a greater demand for services for the elderly. One way of preparing for the future is through legislation sponsored by Congressman Moran to renew the Older Americans Act. Moran has written Congressional leaders to point out the importance of the Older Americans Act and to encourage its reauthorization.

### Letter to House Speaker Dennis Hastert

May 31, 1999

"Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, one of the most important safeguards for our seniors is missing – the Older Americans Act. This important program has not been authorized since 1995. Since that time, our nation's seniors and the programs established to serve them have faced an uncertain future. I have seen firsthand how these programs help our seniors to remain active, healthy and a part of their communities.

"As we struggle with ways to curtail skyrocketing health care costs, we cannot afford to overlook this vital investment in the health and well-being of our seniors. I believe that we owe our seniors a commitment to preserve and continue these valuable services. I hope that you will join me in working for swift reauthorization of the Older Americans Act."

Sincerely,

*Jerry*

The Older Americans Act has been a special program for over 34 years. Using a small slice of the federal budget, the Older Americans Act has provided hot meals, legal assistance, employment for seniors, and services for the homebound. The Older Americans Act helps citizens remain involved in their communities.