

2378302

JON TESTER
MONTANA

SENATE HART BUILDING
SUITE 724
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
202-224-2644

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
BANKING
INDIAN AFFAIRS
VETERANS' AFFAIRS
HOMELAND SECURITY AND
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

United States Senate

June 6, 2011

MONTANA TOLL FREE NUMBER
1-866-554-4403

INTERNET:
<http://tester.senate.gov/contact>

The Hon. Eric H. Holder, Jr.
Attorney General
Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

RECEIVED
DEPT OF JUSTICE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
2011 JUN 23 PM 4:13

Dear Attorney General Holder:

I write to bring your attention to the proven effectiveness of veterans' treatment courts, and to ask you to prioritize assistance for such efforts in Montana as your Department considers its budget.

Since members of Congress no longer have the opportunity to directly fund important initiatives like veterans' treatment courts, I strongly urge you to make these important and worthwhile investments in America's heroes.

In Montana, several treatment courts are beginning to offer services to veterans. Montana's first veterans' treatment court opens in Missoula this month. Yellowstone County is adding a program dedicated to veterans in order to make sure those struggling with multiple DUI offenses receive counseling, treatment and housing support.

These treatment initiatives will likely rely on federal grant funding from your Department to continue serving the veterans who served us.

As a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee and as a proud advocate for all veterans in Montana and across America, I know how important treatment courts are for veterans struggling with addiction and other mental health conditions. The need grows as more veterans return from service in Afghanistan and Iraq--many with PTSD and TBI.

These treatment courts often operate in rural communities where there is significant need for federal grant assistance.

Montana is home to more than 103,000 veterans--more veterans per capita than all states except Alaska. It is often difficult for jurisdictions in Montana and other rural states to fairly compete for federal resources. As you consider budgeting and awarding these grants in the future, please keep the Treasure State in mind. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester

BOZEMAN
(406) 586-4450

BUTTE
(406) 723-3277

GLENDIVE
(406) 365-2391

GREAT FALLS
(406) 452-9585

HELENA
(406) 449-5401

KALISPELL
(406) 257-3360

BILLINGS
(406) 252-0550

MISSOULA
(406) 728-3003