

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CONTACT: MIKE SERPE
202-225-3452

CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA --- "THE POINT OF ANY HEALTH CARE SYSTEM IS ITS END RESULT. NOT FOR BUREAUS, OR HOSPITAL, OR UNIVERSITIES, OR BUDGETS--BUT FOR HUMAN BEINGS," WEST VIRGINIA'S FOURTH DISTRICT CONGRESSMAN NICK J. RAHALL, TOLD A MEETING OF THE WEST VIRGINIA HEALTH SYSTEMS AGENCY AT THE HEART-O-TOWN MOTEL IN CHARLESTON, THIS MORNING.

"WE LEAD THE DEVELOPED WORLD IN AREAS WHERE WE WOULD PREFER TO BE LAST," RAHALL STATED, "IN THE RATE OF HEART DISEASE AND CANCER."

CONGRESSMAN RAHALL POINTED OUT, "SINCE 1965, MEDICAL BILLS IN THIS COUNTRY HAVE GONE UP 429 PERCENT, AND ALL MEDICAL EXPENDITURES ACCOUNT FOR OVER 9 PERCENT OF OUR GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT."

RAHALL ALSO DISCUSSED AND COMPARED THE TWO MAJOR NATIONAL HEALTH CARE PLANS WHICH HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED; PRESIDENT CARTER'S NATIONAL "HEALTHCARE" PLAN, AND SENATOR EDWARD KENNEDY'S HEALTH CARE FOR ALL AMERICANS.

"HEALTH CARE IS AN ISSUE OF THE 1980'S, AND WE MUST ALL WORK TOGETHER FOR A BETTER TOMORROW IN THE HEALTH FIELD," RAHALL SAID.

THE CONGRESSMAN ALSO RECOGNIZED REV. GARY BEALE, WHO IS STEPPING AS PRESIDENT OF HEALTH SYSTEMS AGENCY. "YOU HAVE DONE WHAT VERY FEW FEDERAL AGENCIES EVER COME CLOSE TO DOING, WHICH IS TO CARRY OUT THE WILL OF CONGRESS," RAHALL SAID OF REV. BEALE.

MR. EXTER BUMPERS OF NORTHFORK, WAS PRESENTED THE ANISE FLOYD MEMORIAL AWARD FOR HIS WORK IN FORMING A CLINIC IN ALGOMA. THE CONGRESSMAN ALSO PRAISED MR. BUMPERS FOR HIS DEDICATION.

"THOSE OF US CONCERNED WITH QUALITY HEALTH CARE, CAN NOT LET THE AMERICAN PEOPLE FOR GRANTED THE PROTECTION THEY MAY HAVE AGAINST CATASTROPHIC ILLNESS," RAHALL OBSERVED, "BECAUSE THE REPORTS OF FINANCIAL RUIN BECAUSE OF MEDICAL COSTS, ARE ALL TOO OFTEN HEARD."