

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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HOUSE-PASSED BUDGET RECONCILIATION BILL

GOOD FOR WEST VIRGINIA, RAHALL SAYS

Washington, D.C. -- U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) says that the budget reconciliation bill passed by the House today will help West Virginia, particularly in the areas of revenue sharing, housing, community and city development, and health care.

"Key provisions of this bill authorize housing assistance programs administered by H.U.D. and the Farmers Home Administration," Rahall said. "It extends Federal Housing Administration mortgage insurance programs, Federal Flood and Crime Insurance programs, as well as reauthorizes the Community Development Block Grant and Urban Development Action Grant (UDAG) programs -- two programs which are vital to us in West Virginia."

Another aspect of the bill addresses the unmet health needs of the roughly 35 million Americans currently without private or public health insurance. "The bill permits states to expand their Medicaid programs to cover pregnant women, infants, and elderly and disabled persons whose incomes are below the poverty line -- a provision which will be beneficial to so many of our West Virginia citizens," Rahall pointed out.

Included in the rest of the bill was a provision which will advance the fourth quarter revenue sharing payment for 1986 so that these monies will be paid in FY1986, rather than FY1987, thereby reducing the FY87 outlay by some \$680 million at a time when the revenue sharing program is being threatened.

"While the budget bill was not perfect, it is necessary legislation," Rahall told his colleagues. "It is our only means of avoiding the sequestration process created by Gramm-Rudman," Rahall observed. "We must reduce spending now, or suffer the wrath of Gramm-Rudman, and I believe that in this bill we have done so equitably and fairly."

The bill will now go to a House/Senate conference committee to hammer out discrepancies between the two versions passed.