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CONGRESSMAN

# Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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## RAHALL CALLS FOR INCREASED HEALTH CARE IN WEST VIRGINIA

BECKLEY, W.Va. - Speaking at the 20th Anniversary Banquet of the Rural Acres Clinic in his home town, U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-W.Va.) said that there is a demand for the further expansion of the health care industry in West Virginia and such diversification will bolster the state's economy.

"By creating additional clinics and hospitals, related businesses such as pharmacies and nursing homes would emerge," Rahall said. "These new facilities would attract staff and our families to our state and such an infusion would create a demand for increased recreational activities and lead to the construction of shopping centers, parks, theatres and many more service-related industries."

Rahall also spoke out against the current administration, charging that the president would rather increase defense spending than provide for the well-being of American citizens.

"Over the last six years, health centers such as the Rural Acres clinic have been a constant target of the Reagan budget knife. The President is attempting to reduce the record deficit he has accrued at the expense of the nation's health and welfare," Rahall said. "It is a sad commentary that this administration in Washington can throw away billions of dollars for space weapons that work only in the movies and yet pinch every cent when it comes to providing health care for its own people."

Rahall concluded his speech by stating that despite the hardships, the state's health care programs have managed to survive.

"West Virginia has been hit very hard on many sides - the administration - liability insurance - shortage of doctors; but we have weathered the storm and it is time to fight back," Rahall proclaimed. "It is very encouraging for me to see such a successful and expanding project."