

News  
From \_\_\_\_\_

CONGRESSMAN

  
**Nick Rahall**

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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RAHALL TAKES THE STAND FOR HUNTINGTON V.A. HOSPITAL

WASHINGTON, DC - U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-W.Va.) testified today before the Committee on Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Hospitals and Health Care that the Huntington V.A. Medical Center is in need of funding for a much needed expansion project.

Rahall asked the panel to include in its budget for Fiscal Year 1988, funds for the project which is to include a proposed South Addition, equipment purchases, warehouse space and a parking garage.

"The veterans residing in the tri-State area depend on the availability of quality care at the Huntington V.A.M.C.," Rahall told the subcommittee. "It serves 144,000 veterans throughout the area and there is a true and dire need for this expansion project and the services it will provide."

According to the Congressman, the clinical improvement project has been in the planning stages for six years. In addition to correcting gross space deficiencies in Surgery, Medicine, Radiology, Laboratory and Ambulatory care, the plan will increase bed capacity to meet the projected facility needs.

"Currently patients with psychiatric conditions are transferred to Chillicothe, Ohio or Salem for care," Rahall said. "The proposed addition includes a 30 bed Psychiatric Unit which means patients will, therefore, be treated at the Huntington V.A.M.C., closer to their homes, families and friends."

In concluding his testimony before the subcommittee, Rahall stated that the veterans were not looking for elaborate reforms, but just for their health care needs to be met.

"The 144,000 veterans served by the Huntington V.A.M.C. are not asking for extravagant or luxurious reform of this VA facility," Rahall said. "They are asking that their health care needs be addressed in a timely fashion through the use of adequate space and up-to-date medical equipment."