

Rahall Says Med Center Needs Funds

Wayne
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U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall, D-W.Va., testified recently before the Committee on Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Hospitals and Health Care that the Huntington VA Medical Center is in need of funding for its expansion project.

Rahall asked the panel to include in its 1988 fiscal year budget funds for a proposed addition, equipment, warehouse space and parking garage. "The veterans residing in the Tri-State area depend on the availability of quality care at the Huntington VAMC," Rahall testified.

"It serves 144,000 veterans throughout the area. There is a true and dire need for this expansion project and the services it will provide."

Rahall said the clinical improvement project has been in the planning stages for six years and in addition to correcting space deficiencies in surgery, medicine, radiology, laboratory and ambulatory care, the plan would increase bed capacity to meet the projected facility needs.

"Currently, patients with psychiatric conditions are transferred to Chillicothe, Ohio, or Salem (W.Va.) for care. The proposed addition includes a 30-bed psychiatric unit which means patients will, therefore, be treated at the Huntington VAMC, closer to their homes, families and friends," Rahall said.

"The 144,000 veterans served by the Huntington VAMC are not asking for extravagant or luxurious reform of this VA facility. 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."