

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

CONGRESSMAN

  
**Nick Rahall**

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: STEPHEN SPINA

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PHONE: (202) 225-3452

### RAHALL PUSHES FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAMS

WASHINGTON, D.C.-- Congressman Nick J. Rahall, II (D-WV) announced today his deep disappointment that two of his prized programs have not fared well under the FY 1990 labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill. The Community Health Centers will receive funding levels equivalent to last year's, while the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) will take a \$5.6 million cut.

"While I am intensely aware of how difficult the appropriations process is in times of severe budgetary restraints, when hard choices must be made," said Rahall, "I cannot condone a bill that does not increase funding for the Community Health Centers beyond last year's \$415 million, and also calls for a \$5.6 million cut for the CSBG."

The CSBG is used to fund the Community Action Agencies (CAA's), which provide a broad spectrum of relief to needy individuals and families. CAA's are responsible for helping people find shelter, run food banks, and also provide access to health care and home energy assistance.

"I do not know how these agencies will be able to keep their doors open and continue to help with less funding. This is a time when many areas in my state, and elsewhere in the nation, are becoming more and more dependent upon community services provided under the CSBG program," said Rahall.

The other programs that suffered under the bill were the Community Health Centers. These programs will receive \$415 million, which is the same amount as last year with no adjustment for inflation. Rep. Rahall noted that if there is no sort of adjustment, up to 25 community health centers could be closed throughout the nation. These centers provide crucial aid to millions of Americans with little or no health insurance.

"I have written to Senator Robert Byrd today," Rahall warned. "And I requested him to take immediate action to add at least an inflation adjustment for Community Health Centers."

"So much money has been earmarked for billion dollar defense systems that are just a vision of tomorrow," concluded Rahall. "But I think its more important to start fighting for programs that help people today."

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