



U.S. Congressman
Nick Rahall
WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 27, 1991

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**BENNETT/RAHALL INTRODUCE
CHAMPUS REFORM LEGISLATION**

(Washington, D.C.) U.S. Representatives Charles E. Bennett (D-FL) and Nick J. Rahall (D-WV) introduced legislation today to reform CHAMPUS laws. Under current law, CHAMPUS -- the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Armed Services -- drops beneficiaries when they turn 65, or when they have been receiving continuous medical care for longer than two years.

"As a new generation of soldiers and sailors become combat veterans," Bennett said, "we must insure the quality of health care they and their families will receive now, and in the future.

When CHAMPUS drops these military retirees and their dependents, they become eligible for Medicare. However, benefits, and the medical care provided, are substantially reduced under Medicare. This legislation would make CHAMPUS a secondary payer to Medicare, making up the difference between the two levels of benefits.

"While Medicare provides some level of coverage after a person is dropped from CHAMPUS," Bennett said, "the recipient does not continue to receive the same level of care they earned by their service to our country."

Rahall said, "With Operation Desert Storm displaying the advanced firepower of the United States, Americans must not lose sight of the basic needs of those who work those weapons, needs like health care."

Companion legislation, S.177, introduced by Senator Daniel Inouye (D-HI) is pending in the Senate.

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Press Release

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