

## Hackensack University Medical Center In Line For \$1.1 Million Appropriation

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### Hackensack University Medical Center In Line For \$1.1 Million Appropriation House-Senate Conference Report Includes Funding For 'Green' Hospital Construction

Hackensack, NJ -- United States Senators Jon S. Corzine and Frank R. Lautenberg and Congressman Steve Rothman announced today that \$1.1 million in funding for Hackensack University Medical Center is included in the pending fiscal year 2004 energy and water appropriation conference report. The conference report is expected to be approved later this week by both houses of Congress.

The money for Hackensack University Medical Center will help pay part of the planning and design costs for a new women's and children's pavilion at the medical center and for other buildings. The new \$117 million facility will be constructed as a state of the art "green" facility - both environmentally friendly and energy efficient. "Green" construction and operation improves the environment and patient well-being.

The federal legislators were joined by John Ferguson, the president of Hackensack University Medical Center, and Deirdre Imus, the founder and director of the Deirdre Imus Environmental Center for Pediatric Oncology.

"This appropriation will support an especially innovative design for the new hospital building and therefore help strengthen the quality of health care delivered by the doctors and staff at Hackensack University Medical Center," Senator Corzine said. "We expect the new pavilion will stand as a national model."

"It is important that the federal government helps support hospitals committed to the best possible care for their patients," Senator Lautenberg added. "Hackensack University Medical Center is a leader in recognizing the inherent link between a healthy environment and healthy community."

"These federal funds will help allow the women and children of our area to receive treatment and care in a state-of-the-art, environment-friendly hospital," Congressman Rothman said. "The environmental engineering and planning that this grant will fund will also provide new and practical ways to make not only all of our nation's hospitals more environmentally healthy, but will also have application for use in people's homes and places of work."

"We are grateful that Sen. Corzine, Sen. Lautenberg and Rep. Rothman have secured this funding," said John P. Ferguson, president and chief executive officer of HUMC. "With their support and the expertise of The Deirdre Imus Environmental Center for Pediatric Oncology, our new women's hospital and children's hospital and other buildings on campus will be an environmental model not only for the State of New Jersey but for the nation as well."

The medical center is designing the new Sarkis Gabrellian Women's and Children's Pavilion to be certified by the U.S. Green Building Council. Green or sustainable design improves occupant well-being, environmental performance and energy efficiency. The Deirdre Imus Environmental Center for Pediatric Oncology was the first in the nation to undertake a comprehensive greening program called "Greening the Cleaning" at a hospital facility.

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