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Hackensack University Medical Center & Holy Name Hospital to Expand Emergency Rooms, Englewood Hospital to Further Develop Breast Care Center

Washington, DC -- Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ9) used his position as a member of the House Appropriations Committee to secure \$1.3 million for local hospitals to expand their services. The U.S. House of Representatives today approved the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2002, which includes \$550,000 for Hackensack University Medical Center (HUMC) and \$250,000 for Holy Name Hospital to expand their emergency rooms, and \$500,000 for Englewood Hospital and Community Center (EMHC) to further develop its breast cancer detection and treatment facility.

“Long lines and cramped space are the last things anyone wants to see when they arrive at a hospital with an emergency,” Rothman said. “These funds will allow Hackensack University Medical Center and Holy Name Hospital to expand their emergency room facilities in order to tend to patients in a much more timely and effective manner. Because prompt attention in emergency rooms can mean the difference between life and death, it is vitally important that our hospitals receive the funding they need to provide the first-rate services that Bergen County residents deserve.”

HUMC’s Emergency Trauma Department (ETD) is seeking to double its size in an effort to accommodate both adult and pediatric emergency room patients. Despite two expansions in the last decade, emergency room patient volume has grown faster than expected. This year’s total number of ETD visits is expected to be even greater than last year’s figure of 55,891 visits. Holy Name is currently working to expand and modernize its emergency room to accommodate a 30 percent increase in patient volume since 1993.

With the approved funds, EMHC plans to triple the size of its current breast cancer facility, which has seen a dramatic increase in its caseload over the past decade. In 1991, EMHC established a new facility which streamlined and expedited the often lengthy process of breast cancer detection, diagnosis, and treatment. As a result of this improved service, the hospital has been overwhelmed, and is in need of additional space to expand its service to 30,000 patients each year.

“With its state-of-the-art equipment, Englewood Hospital has established an exceptional track record in breast cancer diagnosis,” said Rothman, who testified on the need for funds at a House Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Appropriations subcommittee hearing in March. “As a result of its well-known service, the number of mammograms performed at Englewood Hospital has soared from 1,450 in 1990 to 11,825 last year. An expanded facility will allow even more women to receive the prompt attention they deserve, and help make a traumatic experience more bearable.”

Last month, Rothman successfully secured \$100,000 for the expansion of EMHC’s breast cancer detection and treatment facility, and a separate \$100,000 for the improvements to Holy Name’s dialysis center. Those funds were part of the Veterans Affairs - Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill.

The Labor, Health and Human Service, and Education Appropriations bill is one of 13 spending bills Congress is required to pass each year. Following Senate approval later this week, the measure will head to the White House where the president is expected to sign the bill into law.

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