

August 25, 2006 Murtha Visits Indiana Regional Medical Center

For Immediate Release

Aug. 25, 2006

MURTHA VISITS INDIANA REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

Indiana, PA - Congressman John P. Murtha will attend and speak at the Healthy Living and Diabetes Awareness Day at Indiana Regional Medical Center as part of his campaign to fight diabetes.

"We have a diabetes epidemic in Western Pennsylvania. Through early screenings and preventative care we can save lives that are being lost unnecessarily, eliminate or reduce the suffering linked to diabetes, and dramatically improve overall quality of life," Murtha said. "Over the past 15 years, I have been working hard to provide funding for research into the causes of diabetes, methods of preventing the disease, and educational and outreach programs such as PRIDE. Programs like this are crucial to preventing and controlling diabetes."

Congressman Murtha has been instrumental in obtaining federal funding to support the Pittsburgh Regional Initiative for Diabetes Education, or PRIDE program. PRIDE is a program developed by the University of Pittsburgh Diabetes Institute in partnership with the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. Through a regional collaboration formed by the University of Pittsburgh Diabetes Institute, Indiana Regional Medical Center, Conemaugh Health Systems, Highlands Hospital, Centerville Clinics and the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy, the PRIDE Program promotes diabetes education and care to communities, providers and people affected by the disease.

The first task of the PRIDE program is to implement the Chronic Care Model, a system that encourages high-quality chronic disease management, in Western Pennsylvania communities including: Fayette, Indiana, Cambria and Washington counties. The objective of this project is to create a more informed, activated patient and a prepared, proactive practice team working together to improve practice functions and clinical outcomes.

The Center for Diabetes Care at Indiana Regional Medical Center will hold the Healthy Living and Diabetes Awareness Day on Friday, August 25 from 10 am to 1 pm in the hospital cafeteria and will include screenings, prevention activities, educational programs and displays about healthy living and cooking demonstrations by Brenda Shilling, Director of the Nutrition and Food Services department at IRMC.

For more information, please call the Center for Diabetes Care at 724.357.7164.