

## March 20, 2006 Murtha tours Centerville Clinics site

For Immediate Release

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Johnstown, PA - Congressman John Murtha today visited Centerville Clinics here to see first-hand how the organization's federally funded network of facilities is providing high-quality primary health care to rural residents in three counties in the 12th Congressional District.

These clinics are literally a health-care lifeline for more than 32,000 patients a year, especially for elderly, low-income, underinsured and uninsured people who otherwise couldn't afford to see a doctor," said Murtha, who has been an ardent supporter of the Department of Health and Human Services programs that fund the facilities. "Providing quality health care in rural communities is a challenge, but the clinics have developed a unique one-stop shopping model that eliminates the need to travel to more metropolitan areas for basic health-care needs."

In addition to the Carmichaels site, the Centerville Clinics network consists of medical offices in Centerville, Bentleyville, California, Charleroi and Washington in Washington County; Waynesburg and Carmichaels in Greene County; and Republic, Uniontown, Connellsville and Fairchance in Fayette County. Dental clinics operate in Centerville, Republic, Connellsville and Charleroi, and mental health sites are located in Centerville, Vestaburg, Washington, two sites in Waynesburg, Carmichaels, Connellsville, Charleroi, Bentleyville and Greensburg.

With 240 employees, including 18 primary care physicians, three nurse practitioners and physician assistants, two dentists and 25 to 30 full- and part-time medical specialists, the facilities can directly provide Medicaid, low-income, underinsured and uninsured patients with access to diagnostic services such as mammograms and EKG's, as well as clinics for black lung, breast and cervical cancer, and specialty care. Community programs include diabetes workshops, flu immunization clinics, stop-smoking activities and pulmonary screenings.

The clinics also maintain working relationships with state health clinics, area hospitals, community action agencies, the local Area Agency on Aging, senior citizens centers and area mental health resources. In addition, they sponsor the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, which places nearly 800 volunteers at 53 community sites.

"Centerville Clinics are clearly community-oriented facilities dedicated to providing a wide range of health-care services," Murtha said. "Their efforts are a tribute to the Yablonski family, the United Mine Workers of America and the local residents whose hard work 50 years ago led to the development and expansion of an integrated system of health care that would prevent people from dying prematurely or becoming unnecessarily disabled because of a lack of services nearby. I'll continue to fight for funding for programs whose results have such profound effects on people's lives."