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For Immediate Release

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Johnstown, PA - Congressman John Murtha today visited the Senior Activity Center on Main Street to kick off yet another phase of his widening campaign to reverse the diabetes epidemic in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

Murtha joined officials of Memorial Medical Center and the InforMedx Group at an open house to introduce the community to Health E Control, a project using kiosk technology to provide the public with access to diabetes resources.

"We're using education, outreach and research to attack diabetes from every possible angle," said Murtha, who secured funding through the Department of the Defense for the project. "With these kiosks, we're taking the battle directly to local drug stores, medical centers and other area locations. For their own health, I encourage everyone in the Cambria-Somerset region to visit a kiosk, get a risk assessment and learn more about how they can delay or even prevent diabetes because once acquired, it can't be cured."

Along with risk assessments, the kiosks include interactive educational modules. Available during the open house will be kiosk tutorials and screenings of body mass index, a measure of weight related to height that is linked to the lifetime risk of diabetes.

In addition to the Senior Activity Center, kiosks have been placed at 12 other locations across the region - the emergency department at Memorial Medical Center; the Conemaugh Diabetes Institute at Memorial Medical Center's Lee Campus; Miners, Meyersdale and Windber medical centers; Thomas Drug Store in Meyersdale; Mainline Pharmacy in Cresson; Vinco Pharmacy; Corner Drug Store in Johnstown; L. Robert Kimball in Ebensburg; the Johnstown YMCA; and the Salvation Army in Johnstown.

Nearly 21 million people in the U.S. have diabetes, including one million in Pennsylvania.