



NEWS



Contact: Press Secretary Will Marlow
Phone: (202) 225-5816
After Hours Phone: (202) 870-2370
Date: 4/14/2008

Washington, D.C. Office
 1214 Longworth
 House Office Building
 Washington, DC 20515
 (202) 225-5816
 Fax: (202) 225-3251

Senate Proposes Closing WVMC in Farm Bill

Hastings: "Gravest threat yet to the Medical Center and its clinics"

Washington, D.C. – With Congress scrambling to write a new Farm Bill by a Friday deadline, a leading Senator is trying to include a ban on doctor-owned hospitals in the legislation. The Democrat Chairman of the powerful Senate Finance Committee, Max Baucus of Montana, has proposed using money saved by banning the Wenatchee Valley Medical Center and other doctor-owned hospitals to pay for higher spending in the Farm Bill.

Tri-Cities Office
 2715 St. Andrews Loop,
 Suite D
 Pasco, WA 99301
 (509) 543-9396
 Fax: (509) 545-1972

"Federal farm policy should not result in a government shut-down of hospitals like the Wenatchee Valley Medical Center," said Congressman Doc Hastings. "Once again, a hospital providing quality care to over 150,000 patients a year in rural, underserved communities is being targeted by this Congress."

Yakima Office
 302 E. Chestnut
 Yakima, WA 98901
 (509) 452-3243
 Fax: (509) 452-3438

The provision would bar hospitals, like the Wenatchee Valley Medical Center, that are more than 40 percent owned by doctors from being paid for treating Medicare and Medicaid patients. With half of the Medical Center's care being provided to Medicare and Medicaid patients, eliminating these payments would be devastating and would require the hospital to shut its doors or sell ownership to an outside corporation. Closure of the Wenatchee Valley Medical Center would impact all of its facilities in Wenatchee, East Wenatchee, Moses Lake, Cashmere, Royal City, Omak, Tonasket, and Oroville.

Visit www.hastings.house.gov for more details about Hastings' ongoing efforts to protect the Wenatchee Valley Medical Center.

[signup for email newsletters](#)