

12 March 2010

Legislative Update: AL 5th Congressional District

VA Mega Clinic:

This office was briefed by Roe Davis, Director of Public Works for Redstone Arsenal on March 4th. The following information was cleared to share. The VA does not have the authorization to build, but does have the authorization to lease. RFPs will be going out soon and will be soliciting responses for clinic space to lease. This might be a part of a larger development project by the responders. I will update you as required.

Medicare doctor reimbursement:

As you know on March 1, 2010, the Medicare/TRICARE physician reimbursement was scheduled to be cut by 21.2% due to the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) formula. The formula was created in 1997 in an effort to curb spending. Each year, this scheduled cut has been prevented by Congress. This year Congress passed PL 111-144, signed into law on March 2, 2010, which, among other extensions, delays the cut until April 1, 2010. Members of Congress will continue to work on a longer extension.

The Veterans' Administration and the Healthcare bill:

As Congress moves forward with the debate over the healthcare bill much concern has surfaced regarding the treatment of veterans in this massive overhaul. As you may know, none of the current legislation healthcare legislation would make direct substantive changes to the VA healthcare system. This highly dangerous legislation, however, would have far reaching implications on all healthcare. Congressman Griffith is committed to vigorously fighting against the misguided legislation the Administration and many members of the Majority Party are attempting to ram through Congress.

Walt Hennessee, Field Representative

Congressman Parker Griffith, M.D.

2101 Clinton Ave., Suite 302

Huntsville, AL 35805

O: (256) 551-0190 ~ F: (256) 551-0194

C: (256) 425-2081 ~ E: Walt.Hennessee@mail.house.gov