

## Castle, Westside Health Announce Nearly \$550,000 in Federal Funds for Development of New Facility, Expanded Healthcare Coverage -- May 21, 2007

Wilmington, DE -- Delaware Congressman Mike Castle was joined today by representatives from Delaware's Delegation, the President & CEO of Westside Health Lolita Lopez, Lt. Governor John Carney as well as other state and local elected officials, to announce \$549,517 in federal funds for Westside Health Inc. from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. This funding will be used to develop the medical capacity of the newly expanded Westside Health site, located in the Northeast region of Wilmington. Congressman Castle followed the announcement with a tour of the new facility, which opened in November 2006 when Westside relocated its Wilmington Hospital Annex site to the new Northeast Health Center, located at 908-B East 16th Street.

"I am extremely pleased to be here today to announce this federal funding of close to \$550,000 because Westside Health is continually developing their services and expanding their healthcare coverage for the people of Delaware. Because of the work of Westside Health and other community health centers throughout the state and the country, I have continually fought for adequate funding each year for these entities because I believe they are a great asset to healthcare coverage in the United States. Centers like Westside are continually reaching out to those who are uninsured and you can be assured I will continue my work as your federal representative to bring funding back to Delaware for these critical initiatives and programs," Castle said.

"We are grateful to our many community partners who have invested in the Northeast Health Center and to the greater mission of Westside Health," said Lolita Lopez, President & CEO of Westside Health, Inc. "Now HRSA has joined with our partners to make possible the further expansion of this site, with operational funding to increase medical capacity in an effort to reach the many uninsured and underinsured citizens in need of access to quality health care in this community."

Westside Health is a Federally Qualified Community Health Center with two locations in Wilmington and one in Newark. With its wide-range of services offered to men, women, and children, Westside Health cared for more than 16,000 patients last year. The new Northeast Health Center is projected to serve an additional 3,000 new patients within two years. The Expanded Medical Capacity Grant will be used at this new facility for further expansion as it strives to improve access for the community and the overall quality of health care available to the region. This specific area of the city has shown a need for increased and affordable health care, as it has some of the worst statistics in the state for infant mortality, HIV/AIDS, and diabetes.

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