

July 29, 2010

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) -- Last night, U.S. Congressman Jason Altmire (PA-04) successfully defeated an attempt to strip federal funding for Butler VA Health Care's new Domiciliary Extended Stay Unit from the FY 2011 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act (H.R. 5822). Just before the House voted on an amendment that would have shifted funding for this and other Veterans Administration (VA) construction projects to other initiatives, Congressman Altmire spoke on the House Floor to stress how this new facility will benefit local veterans.

"I know how important this new domiciliary is to western Pennsylvania veterans and that is why I fought hard to ensure that it receives the funding that it was promised," Congressman Altmire said. "Because our efforts to protect this funding were successful, Butler VA Health Care will be able to continue building this wonderful new facility and improving care for our local heroes."

Butler VA Health Care is currently working to build a new Domiciliary Extended Stay Unit on its main campus to house 56 veterans who are either homeless or suffer from substance abuse or mental illness. During the first phase of this project, which has already begun, a new treatment facility and two new apartment buildings will be built. The funding that Congressman Altmire helped to protect will finance the construction of two additional apartment buildings to complete the project. This new domiciliary will ultimately provide veterans with quality health care and services in a more residential environment.

The FY 2010 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act passed the House last night by a vote of 411-6 and must still pass the Senate before it can be signed into law.