

Mitchell to Examine Long-Term Impact of Walter Reed Conditions on Veterans

Sunday, 04 March 2007

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Rep. Harry Mitchell will chair hearings on how the dilapidated conditions and bureaucratic impediments at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center could affect the long-term needs of veterans on Thursday, March 8 at 3:30 p.m. EST.

Mitchell is the chairman of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations on the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

"The problems at Walter Reed cannot be fixed with new drywall and paint," said Mitchell. "Inadequate outpatient care and a confusing, time-consuming bureaucracy can impact soldiers throughout their entire lives. We owe it to our soldiers and veterans to understand how this systemic failure could increase their needs in the future."

Witnesses will include a wounded Army veteran who received treatment at Walter Reed, the former commander of the Walter Reed Health Care System as well as medical doctors and officials from the Department of Veterans' Affairs who will testify about the long-term effects soldiers may experience as a result of conditions like those at Walter Reed. The witnesses will be accompanied by social worker liaisons to Walter Reed.

WHEN: 3:30 p.m., Thursday, March 8

WHO: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs

WHERE: 334 Cannon House Office Building

Earlier this week, Mitchell joined U.S. Sens. Barack Obama and Claire McCaskill and U.S. Rep. Rahm Emanuel to introduce the Dignity for Wounded Warriors Act of 2007 to ensure that injured soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan receive the care they deserve.