

October 3, 2008: Congressman Wittman Announces Funding for Women's Rural Health Care

(WASHINGTON, DC) - Congressman Rob Wittman announced the award of a \$50,000 grant and two loans totaling \$1,800,540 for the Family Maternity Center of the Northern Neck, which will finance the center's construction and the purchase of equipment.

"This new facility will be a critical link in the delivery of health care in the Northern Neck. Unfortunately, many of Virginia's rural areas are underserved with regard to access to health care. This center is a model of how a community can come together with many different government and private partners to meet the needs of its citizens," said Wittman.

"The Family Maternity Center will provide comprehensive care for pregnant women before, during and after their pregnancies. This approach focuses on the mother, the baby and the family in a safe and comfortable environment," said Wittman.

The Family Maternity Center of the Northern Neck is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization. The center provides maternity and pediatric services to those living predominately in the Middle Peninsula and the Northern Neck of Virginia. This midwife/physician collaborative practice includes a freestanding birth center and group prenatal care based on Midwifery Model of Care.

"For the past few years, women in the Northern Neck have had to drive to Fredericksburg or Richmond to get maternity care, and that was unacceptable. My predecessor, the late Jo Ann Davis, worked hard to bring a maternity center back to the Northern Neck and I am committed to continuing the fight she began," said Wittman.

This funding is distributed through the U.S.D.A's Rural Development grant program, which targets rural communities with populations of less than 20,000. The loans are in the amounts of \$1.6 million at a rate of 4.5% for 40 years and \$200,540 for 15 years at a rate of 4.5%, while the grant is a one time outlay of \$50,000.

Congressman Rob Wittman represents the First District of Virginia. He was elected to replace the late Rep. Jo Ann Davis in a special election last December.