

Washington, DC - Yesterday afternoon, Congressman Charles A. Gonzalez (TX-20) voted in favor of the Fiscal Year 2010 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). This bill will provide our military the tools necessary to ensure that it is fully prepared to meet threats and challenges worldwide. The NDAA included over \$72 million for construction of Phase 1 Ambulatory Care Center at Lackland Air Force Base, which Rep. Gonzalez sought to secure funding for.

“I am grateful the Department of Defense and the House Armed Services Committee saw fit to provide these funds for a new ambulatory care center,” said Rep. Gonzalez. “The young recruits at Lackland Air Force Base, as well as all Air Force personnel and their families, can now expect to receive top care in a top-notch facility that is equipped to meet their medical needs.”

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During the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure round, San Antonio was designated as the new headquarters for military medicine. As a result, Brooke Army Medical Center would be rebuilt to become the San Antonio Military Medical Center-North (SAMMC-N) and Wilford Hall Medical Center (WHMC) would become SAMMC-South. Community leaders were told a new state-of-the-art ambulatory care structure would be built to replace the aging WHMC. Soon thereafter, Air Force officials reversed that decision and stated that because of costs, they were only going to refurbish Wilford Hall to use the lower floors and close off the unused sections of the building. Congressman Gonzalez and community leaders prevailed upon the Air Force and House leaders to go back to the original plan of a new building.

“The Ambulatory Care Center is a worthwhile investment that will serve to improve and protect the lives of our service men and women by expanding critical care to those in need,” added Rep. Gonzalez.

In addition, The Defense Authorization Act provides a 3.4% pay raise for service members, improves military housing, extends health care coverage and make it easier for friends and family to visit wounded service members in the hospital. The NDAA improves our troops' readiness by ensuring they have the equipment and armor they need. It provides funding to replace and repair worn out equipment used in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and addresses equipment shortfalls in the National Guard and Reserve. It strengthens nuclear non-proliferation efforts to keep nuclear weapons out of the hands of terrorists, invests in missile defense systems that address genuine threats with equipment that our commanders in the field have requested, and strengthens our ability to combat growing cyber threats to our critical infrastructure.

“Our troops sacrifice endlessly for us, and now we must be there to support them,” added Rep. Gonzalez.

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