

## Wounded Warriors Meeting

Medical services for returning wounded warriors subject of meeting convened by Congressman Brady

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PHILADELPHIA --- Are the medical needs of wounded veterans being met? That question was the focus of a meeting convened today by Congressman Robert A. Brady (D., PA) at Wills Eye Institute.

Those invited to the meeting included representatives of area hospitals, the Departments of Military and Veterans' Affairs, Health Net (which manages TRICARE the health care program which serves active duty members, National Guard and reserve members) and members of a number of veterans organizations, including Ed Lowery, the executive Director of the Philadelphia Veterans' Multi- Service & Education Center and Edgar Howard, director of the Philadelphia Veterans Advisory Commission.

Brady, a senior member of the House Armed Services Committee (HASC), says the meeting was necessary because in spite of his efforts to secure certification to allow area hospitals to treat wounded veterans returning from service in Iraq and Afghanistan military red tape seems to be a barrier to them receiving treatment at the hospitals.

When reports surfaced about the conditions some Iraq veterans were experiencing at Walter Reed Army Hospital, Congressman Brady requested that the HASC explore the feasibility of allowing injured veterans to be treated at area hospitals and rehabilitation centers. As a result, last year the Department of Defense designated Magee Rehabilitation Center, the Einstein Healthcare Network and Wills Eye Institute eligible to provide treatment to returning Active Duty and Guard and Reserve Service Members.

"I thought it was a no-brainer that these injured heroes would come home and receive the highest level of treatment at our hospitals, which are some of the best in the nation," Brady said. "However, I am dismayed to learn that even with the capacity and resources available, still none of the hospitals report treating any of our returning wounded."

Brady says he is considering introducing legislation that would get rid of the red tape returning veterans in need of medical care are facing.