

**(Newport News, VA)** - Congressman Robert C. "Bobby" Scott (D-VA-3) will visit the Peninsula Institute for Community Health (PICH) on Monday, August 7, 2006, as a part of National Health Center Week and will participate in the Reach Out and Read program.

PICH offers a network of primary health care services to residents of southeast Newport News and the Peninsula. More than 5000 people visited this facility to get their primary health care in 2005. A group of physicians and health care professionals dedicated to community medicine provide health care that is affordable and accessible. They have given untold numbers of families comprehensive health education and nutrition programs to bolster prevention-oriented health.

"PICH makes vital health care a reality for many residents of Newport News. This is an essential service in an underserved area," said Rep. Scott.

Congressman Scott will tour the facility and will read a book to pediatric patients as part of PICH's literacy program. PICH works in conjunction with Reach Out and Read, a national organization that promotes early literacy by giving new books to children and advice to parents about the importance of reading aloud.

"This program promotes literacy by encouraging young people to read and by providing tools to families that promote children's developmental skills," said Congressman Scott. Rep. Scott is a longtime advocate of quality education for all children, and he is a member of the Education and Workforce Committee in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Congressman Scott will visit 48<sup>th</sup> Street Physicians at 4714 Marshall Avenue in Newport News on Monday, August 7, 2006 from 11:00 am to 1:00 p.m. Press are welcome to attend.

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