

Wayne Allard

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ALLARD SEEKS FUNDING FOR FORT COLLINS LAB SEEKS \$50 MILLION IN FUNDING FOR NEW BUILDING

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO) has sent a letter to Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) Tommy Thompson requesting \$50 million in funding from this year's budget for the construction of a new building at Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) lab located in Fort Collins, Colorado.

In December, Senator Allard and Colorado Fourth District Representative Bob Schaffer successfully secured \$10 million in emergency funding directed to the Fort Collins CDC lab for the upgrading of security at the facility. At the same time, Congress appropriated \$250 million in the FY 2002 budget for new CDC equipment, construction and renovation of current facilities. The \$50 million requested by Senator Allard would come from that area of the budget.

“The Fort Collins CDC facility is in terrible condition,” Allard wrote HHS Secretary Thompson. “The decaying conditions of the Fort Collins CDC laboratory must be addressed immediately.”

In his letter to Secretary Thompson, Allard also highlighted some of the problems that need immediate attention at the Fort Collins facility which included the lack of adequate storage, the need for a new magnetometer and x-ray machine, and repairs to numerous leaks on the main buildings roof.

“Current conditions at the Fort Collins CDC laboratory provide for poor research environments, human and animal safety risks, and the potential communication of disease,” added Allard. “In light of the recent terrorist attacks and threats on the United States, it is vital that the federal government provide the highest levels of protection to our research facilities.”

Allard said he was “optimistic” Secretary Thompson would respond favorably to his request.

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