

Wayne Allard

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CONGRESS APPROVES ALLARD REQUEST FOR BONFILS BLOOD CENTER LABORATORY RENOVATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congress has voted to approve the 2004 Omnibus spending bill that includes \$290,000 for the Bonfils Blood Center in Denver requested by U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-Colorado). The funding is to be used to renovate the center’s research laboratory.

“The urgent need for blood is literally a life-and-death matter, and Bonfils is meeting that need in our community,” Senator Allard said. “This funding will allow the center to continued its mission supplying blood for transfusions needed by trauma victims — due to accidents and burns — heart surgery, organ transplants, and patients receiving treatment for leukemia, cancer or other diseases.”

The Bonfils Blood Center collects 85 percent of Colorado donors’ blood and processes it into several usable products. Colorado’s population is expected to increase 9 percent from 2000 to 2005, while the need for blood will increase 67 percent.

Bonfils is a Colorado Type II disaster site and was the first provider of blood to New York City following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center. But it is currently exceeding its facility capacity by 75 percent. With this funding, Bonfils will totally reconstruct the 55,000 square feet of laboratory space in its existing facility, enabling the center to meet the growing demand for blood and blood products, and to continue its necessary research capabilities related to blood-product supply, transfusion science, blood disorders and related medical issues.

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