

Washington, DC -- U.S. Representative Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) toured A.O. Fox Hospital's FoxCenter facility today to highlight \$243,000 in congressionally-directed funding he secured to upgrade mammography technology at the outpatient clinic and expand critical health care services in surrounding rural areas.

"It is an honor to be part of this outstanding team, who brings world-class health technology to our area –empowering local doctors to save lives," **Arcuri said**. "The fact is, early detection is critical to catching breast cancer and saving lives and this funding will help improve early diagnostic ability. Not everyone in this country is as lucky as we are in Upstate New York to have access to top-notch health care facilities like A.O. Fox Memorial Hospital. I will continue to make sure local communities receive the necessary federal resources to improve health care by providing cutting-edge, life saving technology."

"From his first day in office, Congressman Arcuri has shown a strong interest in rural healthcare. His efforts on behalf of Fox Hospital will improve women's healthcare and most certainly will save lives," said **John R. Remillard, President of A.O. Fox Memorial Hospital**.

According to the American Cancer Society, there were an estimated 180,510 new cases of breast cancer nationwide in 2007. In New York, 12,580 cases of breast cancer in women were reported last year.

Federal funds secured by Arcuri will be used to upgrade existing medical imaging to digital mammography, enabling the outpatient facility to provide diagnostic mammography services to three rural counties in Central New York equaling 3,300 square miles.

At A.O. Fox Memorial Hospital, 33% of treated breast cancer cases in 2006 were women under the age of 50. Out of that 33%, half of those women had advanced stage breast cancer. Digital mammography technology has the ability to positively impact those figures by increasing early diagnosis.

A.O. Fox Hospital provides a broad spectrum of healthcare, with renowned specialties in emergency, cancer, cardiac and primary care.

###