

PRESS RELEASE

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U.S. Congressman Rod Blum visited Regional Medical Center

Manchester, IA – U.S. Congressman Rod Blum visited Regional Medical Center (RMC) on Tuesday, October 17, 2017. He shared, “The building is beautiful. But even better than the building are the personnel. RMC employs many very qualified people. The small town care patients are treated with is amazing to witness. It truly plays out in every position here.”

While at RMC, Congressman Blum observed procedures in the Pain Management Clinic, “I was impressed with the procedures I observed. To see the Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) determine the cause of the pain and pinpoint the exact location of each individual’s source of pain was absolutely fascinating.”

In Iowa, CRNAs are the sole provider of all anesthesia services in 88 out of 117 hospitals in Iowa. At RMC, CRNAs provide pain management and anesthesia services for all types of surgical procedures, trauma, delivering babies, and ambulatory surgery.

Mark Odden, [MBA, ARNP, CRNA](#) with Iowa Anesthesia, LC and RMC talks about the importance of Congressman Blum’s support of Iowa healthcare and CRNAs. “It is obvious Congressman Blum has interest in the health and well-being of Iowans. The mere fact that he is willing to explore CRNAs role in Pain Management and understand it validates that. We appreciate his support in ensuring CRNAs are able to provide services to people in the state of Iowa in a cost effective and very intelligent way,” shared Odden.

Blum visited about the importance of CRNAs in Critical Access Hospitals. “If Nurse Anesthetists are not servicing rural communities, there will be a vast number of people not getting the care they need to live a healthy and fruitful life. My district is mainly rural and these hospitals and services play an important role in quality access to care. It is obvious that RMC’s Pain Management Clinic provides world-class healthcare,” stated Blum.

Charlie Button, Chief Executive Officer, talked about RMC as an independent Critical Access Hospital, “Being independent ensures each dollar we make goes right back into our hospital, making it possible to let Mark and others on our staff let us know what they need to do their job best and we are in-turn able to take timely action to meet those needs.”

Congressman Blum stated, “We need to let hospitals like RMC do what they do best. We need to get out of their way. This will increase competition and will drive costs down while increasing quality and at the same time, help people financially who need help purchasing insurance or their healthcare.”