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July 21, 2004

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Position on House Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations
Helps Obtain Economic & Military Aid

Washington, DC - Congressman Steve Rothman (D-Fair Lawn), working closely with his colleagues on the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, moved the Fiscal Year 2005 foreign aid bill through the U.S. House of Representatives last week. The bill includes \$65 million in economic support for Armenia, \$5 million in military aid, \$5 million for Nagorno-Karabagh, and \$750,000 for International Military Education and Training (IMET).

"By giving Armenia this aid package, we are providing the financial support that will help her establish a more fiscally sound economy, while also ensuring its security," said Rothman, a member of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues. "I am very proud that my colleagues and I on the Foreign Operations Subcommittee were able to increase the size of this foreign assistance and that we were able to equalize the amounts of military aid to both Armenia and Azerbaijan rather than accept the lower level of funding for Armenia that the Bush Administration originally proposed."

Rothman, who met last month on Capitol Hill with Armenian Foreign Minister Vartan Oskanian and Armenian Ambassador Arman J. Kirakossian, added, "The United States must provide financial support to its allies in need, such as Armenia. We must do all that we can to ensure Armenia's freedom, security, and economic well-being. Armenia has been a true friend of the United States - supporting us both in the war on terrorism and in Iraq. It is my hope and expectation that this foreign assistance will further strengthen Armenia and make that friendly country a more stable and stronger member of the world community."

The Foreign Operations Appropriations bill is one of 13 spending bills Congress is required to pass each year. Final passage of this measure is expected in September or October.

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