

Rothman Helps Secure \$ 78.4 Million In U.S. Aid For Armenia & Nagorno Karabagh

July 16, 2003

Rothman Helps Secure \$78.4 Million In

U.S. Aid For Armenia & Nagorno Karabagh

Uses Position On House Appropriations Subcommittee On Foreign Operations

To Obtain \$20.5 Million More Than Bush Administration Requested,

Pledges To Fight For Even Higher Levels Of Funding

Washington, DC - Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ) used his position on the powerful House Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations to help secure at least \$78.4 million in United States aid to Armenia, \$20.5 million more in economic assistance than President Bush's budget request. Rothman joined his colleagues on the House Appropriations Committee today in voting for the Foreign Operations Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2004, which includes \$70 million in economic assistance for Armenia, \$2.5 million in military assistance, \$900,000 for International Military Education and Training (IMET), and \$5 million for Nagorno Karabagh.

"While I am pleased that my colleagues on the House Appropriations Committee agreed to provide \$20 million more in economic assistance for Armenia than the President requested, I am hopeful that as the bill continues along in the legislative process that we can help push the level of funding closer to the \$90 million level Armenia received for Fiscal Year 2003," Rothman said. "Armenia is at a critical juncture right now, and continued U.S. assistance is necessary so that Armenia's growth and progress that we have witnessed in the past few years can continue."

Of all the former Soviet Republics, Armenia sustained the largest percentage decrease in U.S. assistance as outlined in the Bush Administration's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2004. The Administration called for \$49.5 million in economic assistance and \$2.5 million for military assistance, a drastic cut of close to \$40 million from the level appropriated for Fiscal Year 2003.

"I remain committed to providing Armenia with the critical resources it needs as it makes great advances in democracy and free market reforms. By reducing the level of foreign assistance, the Administration is sending the wrong message to the people of Armenia about the United States' commitment to helping Armenia sustain the growth that it has recently exhibited," Rothman argued. "It is also sending a horrible message to Azerbaijan and Turkey regarding the continuing blockade that is depressing the economy of Armenia and threatening the progress we are seeing in the country."

The Foreign Operations Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2004 now moves to the House floor where it is expected to pass next week.

###

[Go back](#)