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Second Consecutive Year That Congressman Has Secured Funds For

His National School Safety Program

Washington, DC - For the second consecutive year, Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ9) has secured \$5 million from Congress for his "Secure Our Schools Act"; a national school safety initiative that he started in 2000. Rothman, a member of the House Appropriations Committee, worked closely with his colleagues to obtain the funds which come from the program that he developed in direct response to concerns from children, parents, and teachers about school violence.

Once again, the House has recognized the importance of keeping our children safe at school and funded my "Secure Our Schools Act"; with \$5 million," Rothman said. "This program allows schools to obtain federal grants to pay for metal detectors, security cameras, special teacher security training, and other security improvements. Schools should be a safe-haven for our youngsters where they never have to fear for their personal safety."

Under the "Secure Our Schools Act"; municipalities can apply for funds to install metal detectors, locks, improved lighting, and other deterrent measures that will help keep students safe. Additionally, resources can be used for school security assessments, security training of personnel and students, and for improved coordination with local law enforcement officials. The "Secure Our Schools Act"; is a voluntary, matching grant program that calls for the federal government to pay for 50 percent of the security measures, with the state or local government covering the remainder of the cost.

Last year, in its first year in existence, the Secure Our Schools program was administered by the U.S. Department of Justice. That year, as a result of Rothman's efforts, New Jersey received \$615,000 -- more than 12 percent of the total funds available across the nation. "Secure Our Schools Act"; grants were awarded in New Jersey to: North Bergen -- \$325,000; Union City - \$125,000; Asbury Park - \$50,000; Irvington - \$50,000; Orange - \$35,000; and Wildwood - \$30,000.

This year, given the current fiscal situation in our country, I am pleased to have obtained \$5 million for my "Secure Our Schools Act";," Rothman said. "The "Secure Our Schools Act"; is an invaluable program that provides children and parents with the comfort of knowing

that their schools are safe. With increased security measures, students can be comforted to know they are safe, and focus on their studies, without having to worry about violence in their schools.â€Â•

houseThe funds for the â€˜Secure Our Schools Actâ€™ were included in the final budget bill for Fiscal Year 2003 that both the House and Senate overwhelmingly approved Thursday night. The measure now moves to the White House where President Bush is expected to sign it into law.

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