

## Rothman Helps Secure \$ 500,000 In Federal Funds To Hire Full-Time Police Officers For Local Schools:

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Grants for Fairview, Kearny, and North Bergen come from U.S. Department of Justice

Washington, DC - Continuing his work to improve school safety in direct response to concerns from students and their parents, Congressman Steve Rothman today announced \$500,000 in federal grants for local schools to have a full-time police officer on patrol. North Bergen was awarded \$250,000 to hire two full-time police officers, while Fairview received a \$125,000 to hire a full-time officer for its Lincoln School and Kearny received a separate \$125,000 to pay for a second full-time police officer at its high school.

“The issue of school violence is one that touches us all very deeply and personally,” said Rothman, the father of two school-aged children. “We need to take all of the necessary precautions to prevent any kind of school violence. Having permanently assigned police officers will greatly improve the safety of all students, while at the same time provide them with positive role models.”

Under the terms of the award, the police officers will work with students, teachers, and parents to improve school security, counsel troubled youth, mediate conflicts before they erupt into violence, and help prevent drug use. Additionally, it is expected that the officers’ mere presence will deter criminal activity at the school.

Rothman has a strong history of working to curb school violence. In response to a letter from Saddle Brook Middle School students, Rothman developed the Secure Our Schools Act, which allows school districts to apply for federal grants to install metal detectors, locks, improved lighting, and other deterrent measures that keep students safe. Last year, Congress approved \$5 million for the program -- its first-ever funding.

“School should be a safe-haven for our children, where they go to learn without having to look over their shoulder fearing that they may be in danger,” Rothman said. “A key component of preventing school violence is having someone who students can feel comfortable confiding in when they learn of a classmate carrying a weapon or planning a fight. These officers will be the ones that students feel comfortable with in their school.”

Rothman has had much recent success in obtaining funds for local schools in his Congressional District. Earlier this year, he secured a \$125,000 federal grant for a full-time police officer in Elmwood Park and a separate \$125,000 grant for North Arlington to hire their own school police officer.

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