

Rothman Requests Funding for High-Tech Way to End Racial Profiling

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Washington, DC -- Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ9), a member of the House Appropriations Committee, requested \$625,000 to fund the development of an Internet and CD-based self-assessment and training program for police officers and troopers. This program will assist police officers and troopers to understand the complex dynamics of the public perception of racial profiling.

"Congress must do its part to end racial profiling," Rothman said. "That is why we must fund training programs that help police officers do their jobs while showing greater sensitivity for minorities."

Recently, the New Jersey State Police and the Office of the Attorney General have been working with the Arlington County, Virginia Police Department on a proposal for the development of an Internet and CD-based self-assessment and training program for police officers and troopers. They now need funding to implement the proposal.

These departments believe an Internet and CD-based program will be most effective, because it provides officers with a tool that is easily accessible wherever they might be and whenever they can utilize it. By utilizing this software, police departments encourage self-evaluation and heightened sensitivity, as well as understanding of increasingly diverse communities.

"This training program will improve police-community relations by increasing individual police officers' understanding of their own potential biases through self-assessment," Rothman said.

Rothman requested the funding in a letter to Congressman Frank Wolf (R-VA), the Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State and Judiciary.

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