

Rothman Co-sponsors Bill to Restore COPS Funding

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Washington, DC -- Congressman Steve Rothman (D-New Jersey) has brought the fight to restore funding to put more cops onto New Jersey's streets back to Washington. After bringing together in early-May law enforcement officers and mayors from 16 towns in Bergen and Hudson Counties to discuss how the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program has reduced the crime rate, Rothman co-sponsored a bill to restore budget cuts to that program.

"The COPS program has been a major success for the state of New Jersey, especially Bergen and Hudson Counties," Rothman said. "That is why I have co-sponsored bipartisan legislation to make sure that COPS is fully funded and to make our streets even safer."

Under President Bush's budget, the COPS program would be cut by \$177 million, a cut of over 17 percent. The bill co-sponsored by Rothman would not only reverse those budget cuts, it would add funding to hire an additional 50,000 officers over the next six years. There are over 100,000 more police on America's streets since the COPS program was passed in 1994. Crime has been reduced to the lowest level since 1968 and has declined for a record eight consecutive years.

"This outcome of this fight directly affects the safety of not just the people of New Jersey, but of people across the entire nation," Rothman said. "That's why it's a fight we must win."

Rothman and many members of the Bergen and Hudson County law enforcement community believe the COPS program plays a vital part in protecting our streets. Since Rothman entered Congress in 1997, he has secured over \$17 million worth of grants for towns in the 9th Congressional District.

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