

## Congressman Rothman Celebrates North Bergen's Fifth Annual D.A.R.E. Day

For Immediate Release

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#### Congratulates North Bergen's 650 D.A.R.E Program Graduates

(North Bergen, NJ) Congressman Steve Rothman (D-Fair Lawn) today addressed 650 fifth-graders celebrating their graduation from the North Bergen Police Department's Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E) program about the importance of staying drug-free. D.A.R.E. is a cooperative effort by local police departments, schools, parents, and the community, to help America's children stay away from alcohol and drugs. Rothman expressed his pride in the D.A.R.E. graduating class of 2005 and spoke of the wonderful opportunities each student has and the success that they can achieve by living a drug-free life.

"The decisions you make in your life not only affect you, your family, your school and your community, they affect the entire country," said Congressman Rothman. "We need a nation full of young men and women who make good decisions and know what to do when they are approached by others trying to get them hooked on drugs or alcohol. D.A.R.E. gives kids the tools to make the right decisions"

Congressman Rothman thanked the North Bergen Police Department for educating students about the importance of staying away from drugs. Rothman also thanked the teachers and North Bergen Mayor and State Senator, Nicholas Sacco for their collective efforts to make sure students are informed about the effects of drugs and alcohol.

The pioneer drug prevention program, D.A.R.E., was founded in Los Angeles in 1983 and is currently taught in all 50 states in America as well as 53 countries. D.A.R.E. New Jersey's program is a police officer led series of classroom lessons that teaches students in the 5th or 6th grade how to resist peer pressure and lead drug and violence free lives. D.A.R.E. officers are community police officers who undergo 80 hours of special training in child development, teaching techniques, and communications skills.

Congressman Rothman is a proud father of two public school children who are graduates of the D.A.R.E program. He represents the southern portion of Bergen County, parts of northern Hudson County, and the Borough of Hawthorne in Passaic County in New Jersey's Ninth Congressional District. Now serving in his fifth term, Congressman Rothman is a member of the powerful House Appropriations Committee, which allocates all of the funds in the federal budget. He sits on the Transportation and Treasury as well as the Foreign Operations Subcommittees of the Appropriations Committee. Rothman also serves in the House leadership as Assistant Democratic Whip.