

Rothman Secures \$ 78 Million in U.S. Aid for Armenia

For Immediate Release

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--Seat on House Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations

Helps Obtain Economic & Military Aid--

Washington, D.C. - Congressman Steve Rothman (D-Fair Lawn) today announced \$78 million in Congressional appropriations for Armenia in the Fiscal Year 2006 Foreign Aid bill. The bill passed the House Tuesday evening on a vote of 393-32. As a member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Rothman worked closely with his colleagues on this bill, which includes \$68 million in economic support for Armenia, \$5 million in military aid, and \$5 million for Nagorno-Karabakh.

"Most Americans believe that America spends 10%-15% of its budget on foreign aid. That simply is not the case, we only spend about 1% of our budget on foreign aid-- and that 1% is very well spent. By giving Armenia this aid package, we are providing the financial support that will help this nation establish a more fiscally sound economy, while also ensuring its security," said Rothman, a member of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues. "I am very proud that my colleagues and I on the Foreign Operations Subcommittee were able to increase the size of this foreign assistance package from \$75 million last year."

As a long-time supporter of Armenia, Rothman is a member of the Armenian Issues Caucus, a Congressional organization that focuses on issues related to the Republic of Armenia. Rothman also recently led a Congressional effort to recognize Vice-President Richard Cheney's acknowledgement of the Armenian Genocide in correspondence with the eldest living survivor of the Armenian Genocide. In the letter, which was sent on June 23, 2005, Rothman and twenty-one of his colleagues asked for the Bush Administration's confirmation that Vice-President Cheney's remarks, regarding official U.S. recognition of the Armenian Genocide, are now official U.S. policy.

The Foreign Operations Appropriations bill is one of 11 spending bills Congress is required to pass each year. This legislation will next be considered by the U.S. Senate and then moves to the White House where President Bush is expected to sign the bill into law.