

## Rothman Secures \$ 13.5 Million in U.S. Aid for Ireland

For Immediate Release

Contact: Bob Decheine

Phone: 202-225-5061

### ROTHMAN SECURES \$13.5 MILLION IN U.S. AID TO IRELAND

--Seat on House Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations

Helps Provide Economic Assistance--

Washington, D.C. - Congressman Steve Rothman (D-Fair Lawn) this week announced \$13.5 million in Congressional appropriations for the International Fund for Ireland 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 will provide this private organization, which promotes economic and social growth in Ireland, with \$13.5 million in economic assistance.

"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," said Rothman. "We use that financial assistance to help fellow democracies, such as Ireland, stay secure and economically sound. The assistance we have provided for the International Fund for Ireland will help the most disadvantaged areas in Ireland to undergo economic regeneration and reconciliation. I am pleased that I was able to work with my colleagues on the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, which recommends all the foreign aid for the U.S., to get the House to approve this aid for Ireland."

As a long-time supporter of Ireland, Rothman is a member of the Friends of Ireland, a congressional organization that focuses on issues related to the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. Rothman also recently re-introduced a bill to help Malachy McAllister and his children gain political asylum and to allow them to stay in the United States indefinitely. The McAllisters are an Irish Catholic family who live in Rothman's Congressional District and are threatened with assassination if they were forced to return to Ireland. Rothman and his colleague, Representative Peter King, led a bipartisan effort calling on Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff to stop deportation proceedings against the McAllister family and grant them political asylum. The letter to Secretary Chertoff was sent on June 27, 2005 with a total of 39 signatures from Members of the House of Representatives.

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.