

Congressman Rothman Announces \$103,075 in School Security Funding for Fair Lawn and Ridgefield

Rothman's Secure Our Schools Program is keeping our kids safe

(Washington, DC) — Today, Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ), a member of the House Appropriations Committee, announced a total of \$103,075 in federal funding for the Ninth District of New Jersey from the Secure Our Schools Program, which Congressman Rothman created in 2000. The grants will be awarded to the Fair Lawn Police Department the Borough of Ridgefield.

"Despite tough fiscal times, the first obligation of government remains the same. We must keep the public, and especially our children, safe," said Rothman. "That is why in 2000, along with my friend Rep. Henry Hyde (R-IL), I created Secure Our Schools. This federal matching grant program helps towns cover the cost of school safety measures, such as metal detectors, locks, lighting, and other crime prevention tools. It also funds security assessments, training for students, teachers, and administrators, coordination with local law enforcement, and other actions that significantly improve school safety."

"I encourage all New Jersey school districts interested in applying for Secure Our Schools 2010 safety grants to partner with their local law enforcement agencies and contact my office," said Rothman. "We must give our nation's schoolchildren a safe and secure environment in which they can learn, not having to constantly look over their shoulders in fear."

The Secure Our Schools program provides matching federal grants administered by the Office of Community Oriented Policing (COPS), at the U.S. Department of Justice. This program authorizes the Attorney General to make grants available to public elementary and secondary schools for increased security measures, including metal detectors, locks, lighting, and other deterrent measures; security assessments; training for students, teachers, and administrators; coordination with local law enforcement; and other actions that could significantly improve school safety.

Since 2002, Secure Our Schools grants have been awarded to a total of 792 law enforcement agencies that have partnered with more than an estimated 4,455 schools in 50 states and territories to help ensure our children's safety. In New Jersey, over 109 Secure Our Schools grants have been awarded to our law enforcement agencies and school districts. Those grants are worth over \$8.6 million and helped secure more than 200 schools.

Secure Our Schools is administered by the Office of Community Oriented Policing (COPS) in the Department of Justice (DOJ). School districts that wish to participate in this program may contact Congressman Rothman's office at 25 Main Street, Suite 101, Hackensack, NJ 07601; by phone at (201) 646-0808; or by fax at (201) 646-1944.

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