

Rothman Secures \$ 15 Million For His National "Secure Our Schools" Program

For
Immediate Release

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--House Passes Bill That Includes Continued Funding
For Improved School Safety Program--

(Washington, DC) Congressman Steve Rothman (D-Fair Lawn) announced that the House of Representatives passed the Science and Departments of State, Justice, Commerce, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2006 which includes \$15 million for Rothman's national "Secure Our Schools" program. "Secure Our Schools" is a school security matching grant program that Rothman created in 2000 while serving on the House Judiciary Committee. To date, Rothman has secured a total of \$50 million for this important school safety program.

"As a member of the Appropriations Committee, I am proud to have worked to ensure that our children can attend school without the fear of violence," Rothman stated. "To date, 'Secure Our Schools' grants have benefited a total of 733 schools since the program started, who have partnered with 395 law enforcement agencies, to purchase and implement school security measures."

The "Secure Our Schools" Act, authored by Rothman, is a voluntary, matching grant program that affords municipalities the opportunity to apply for federal funding for school safety grants. The grants can be used for metal detectors, locks, improved lighting, other deterrent measures, school security assessments, and security training for students and personnel. The federal government pays for 50 percent of the cost of the security measures, with the state or local government covering the remainder of the cost. If a school cannot meet the matching requirement due to a lack of funds, it can be considered for a 100% grant.

"The 'Secure Our Schools' program will continue to have a significant impact on the reduction of school violence in this country, and I am pleased that the House of Representatives has made a commitment to improving the access of local municipalities to these grants by approving \$15 million for this important program next year," said Rothman. "Unfortunately, we live in a society in which a program like 'Secure Our Schools' is necessary and where too many of our school children have to attend school worrying that they may be subject to some sort of violence. I continue in my commitment to this vitally important program so that our children can go to school and concentrate on learning and preparing for the future, instead of constantly looking over their shoulders in fear."

As a result of Rothman's efforts, New Jersey has received a total of \$2,124,406 in "Secure Our Schools" grants since the program was created in 2000. For 2004, the following municipalities in New Jersey were awarded "Secure Our Schools" grants: Barnegat (\$80,000); Carteret (\$27,234); Egg Harbor (\$100,000); Elmwood Park (\$50,000); Hackensack (\$61,072); Gloucester (\$27,000); Irvington (\$35,000); Lacey (\$23,438); Lawrence (\$10,000); Linden (\$50,000); Little Egg Harbor (\$45,000); Maple Shade (\$250,000); Township of Middle (\$15,000); Millville (\$40,000); Mt. Holly (\$25,000); Ocean City (\$14,662); Paramus (\$50,000); and Paterson (\$90,000).

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