



Hon. Doris O. Matsui

Member of Congress

Doris O. Matsui

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MATSUI: INCREASE FUNDING FOR COPS PROGRAM

Washington, DC – Congresswoman Doris O. Matsui (CA-5) gave the following remarks in support of higher funding for the COPS program, which provides critical financial support for our law enforcement officials, during House consideration of the Science-State-Justice-Commerce Appropriations bill.

“Of late there has been much discussion on protecting Americans and what Congress can do to fund programs that have proven effective and yield results. Yet here we are today cutting a program that our law enforcement officials rely upon to ensure the safety and security of our communities – the COPS program.

“They are our first line of defense and the COPS program helps states and localities put more police on our streets to keep our families safe. My hometown of Sacramento has seen the practical benefits of this program. The COPS program has put an additional 569 law enforcement officers on the streets of Sacramento in the past decade. Without this program, I don’t know that this would have been possible.

“I realize the cuts to the COPS program could have been more sizable. Congress did not go as far as President Bush recommended in downsizing this program – and I am pleased at that. But I am truly disappointed that again for the fourth year in a row funding for this much needed program is on the chopping block.

“The men and women in law enforcement make a real difference – not only in our cities and towns, but in the bigger effort to safeguard our country from the threat of terrorists. And I am frustrated that we had the opportunity to correct this funding cut for a worthwhile program.

“The Rules Committee could have made in order under this rule an amendment offered by Congressman Obey. It would have kept funding for the COPS program at the previous year’s levels. No increase, but certainly no decrease. This would have been a smart amendment to make in order.

“I am pleased to note, however, that this bill makes a significant commitment to strengthen research and education through increased NASA funding.

“Technology developed by NASA has long-served as an engine of innovation, which has driven our nation’s economic growth. Advances made by this agency in the areas of science and technology have played an integral role in the defense of our nation. And most importantly, NASA is educating our nation’s next generation of scientists and engineers. I applaud the committee for their long-term planning in this area.

“Although I would like to see a few changes to this bill—particularly a greater increase in law enforcement funding—I do support the underlying measure and I am pleased it was reported out in a bipartisan fashion. I commend the Appropriations Committee for their hard work under such tough budgetary constraints.”

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