

I rise today to protest the 25 percent cut proposed this week to the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program, otherwise known as SCAAP. SCAAP reimburses States and localities for the arrest, incarceration and transportation of undocumented immigrants who commit crimes in our communities. When State and local governments are forced to step in and do the Federal Government's job, it is only fair that they be reimbursed.

Last year, the Arizona Department of Corrections received \$12.8 million from the Federal Government to house up to 5,600 criminal illegal immigrants in State prisons, only 10 percent of what Arizona spent to house illegal inmates that year. This cut is wrong, and as this legislation moves to the floor next week, I urge my colleagues to help me fight this cut.

If we are serious about immigration enforcement, we must restore SCAAP funding and reimburse Arizona for keeping criminal alien immigrants behind bars.