

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Harry Mitchell today voted to boost the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program, or SCAAP, providing much-needed assistance to states that bear the burden of incarcerating illegal aliens. The House joined Mitchell in approving the funds by passing the Commerce, Justice and Science Appropriations bill by a 281-142 vote.

“For too long, states have been stuck with high and dry because of the federal government’s failure to secure the border,” said Mitchell. “This is an important first step toward making sure we reimburse Arizona’s taxpayers for bearing the burden of illegal immigration.”

Mitchell and the House voted to provide \$405 million for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP), a \$164 million increase from the current funding level. The legislation also provides \$40 million for southwest border prosecutors to provide states and local law enforcement agencies with assistance in processing drug and illegal alien cases.

The bill also includes significant federal funding to combat methamphetamine production and distribution:

- \$21 million in the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) budget specifically for the southwest border and a meth enforcement program that will assist state and local law enforcement with the removal and disposal of hazardous materials from meth labs.
- \$85 million in the [Community Oriented Policing Services](#) (COPS) budget to combat meth production and distribution and to target meth “hot spots.”

Earlier this year, [Mitchell co-sponsored](#) and the House approved H.R. 365, the Methamphetamine Remediation Research Act, which works to clean up methamphetamine labs and the toxic mess they leave behind. The bill directs the Environmental Protection Agency to establish health-based guidelines on how clean the site should be in order to be considered a safe living environment.

Other notable and worthwhile initiatives in the bill include:

- \$459 million for grants and programs under the Violence Against Women Act,
- \$100 million to restart the COPS hiring program, and
- \$80 million for the nation’s Anti-Gang Initiative.

Two of Mitchell’s funding requests were included in the appropriations bill:

- \$450,000 for public safety communications and interoperability, and
- \$200,000 for law enforcement tactical simulator training technologies for the [Mesa Police Department](#)

Mitchell is the first representative from Arizona’s Fifth Congressional District to voluntarily release

his funding requests. A full list of Mitchell's funding requests can be viewed at http://mitchell.house.gov/news/view_article.asp?ID=82