

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Harry Mitchell today secured several key victories for Arizona and the nation, including a \$500,000 investment in Phoenix’s [Translational Genomics Research Institute](#), or TGen. Mitchell’s funding request for TGen was included in the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill which passed 276-140.

“In the innovation age, America’s economy will become increasingly dependent on the cutting-edge research, and the nation will look to Arizona for leadership,” Mitchell said.

TGen is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to advanced genomics-based health research in human diseases, human pathogens and infectious diseases and the anchor project for the Phoenix Biosciences Center, an alliance bringing together the three major state universities and the City of Phoenix to establish an academic and bioscience research park in downtown Phoenix.

Mitchell’s funding requests also focused on addressing the nation’s nursing shortage. The bill provided:

- \$175,000 for Enfermeras En Escalera, a model program for addressing the nursing shortage in both Arizona in an innovative and cost-effective way. The program creates a fast track program for internationally-educated nurses who are legal residents or citizens of the United States.
- \$100,000 for the Online Registered Nurse Recertification Program, an innovative and model program for helping Arizona address the nursing shortage in a cost effective manner in a short time frame.

“Our nation has a growing nursing shortage, and here in Arizona, we’re looking to find solutions,” said Mitchell.

The Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill also

- Increases the maximum Pell Grant by \$390 in addition to the \$260 increase the new Congress enacted in February,
- Invests in life-saving medical research by providing a \$750 million increase for the [National Institutes of Health](#), and
- Better protects Americans for terrorism preparedness and response by appropriating \$6.5 billion for the [Centers for Disease Control](#) and Prevention, a \$192 million increase from the current level.

Mitchell also secured \$150,000 for Making Every Student Accountable (M.E.S.A.), which will fund start-up and evaluation costs for expansion of M.E.S.A. into four inner city schools, reaching approximately 500 at-risk youth. M.E.S.A., which was developed through a partnership among Mesa Public Schools, the Mesa Police Department, local businesses, and community

organizations, provides out-of-school enrichment, mentoring, and positive youth development activities targeting at-risk youth to improve academic performance and reduce drop-out rates and at-risk behaviors, including gang involvement.

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