

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Harry Mitchell today voted to pass the C.O.P.S. Improvement Act of 2007, which will put an estimated 50,000 new police officers on the nation's streets, including approximately 555 in Arizona's Fifth Congressional District. The legislation passed the House of Representatives 381-34.

"This is important legislation that provides Arizona's local law enforcement with the tools they need to fight crime," said Mitchell. "Passing this legislation on National Police Officers Memorial Day is a fitting way to honor those fallen officers who dedicated themselves to serve and protect the communities in which we live and work."

The C.O.P.S. (Community Oriented Policing Services) Improvement Act comes at an important time. According to the FBI, crime is on the rise for the first time since the early 1990s. Violent crime rose last year in Phoenix, Tempe and Chandler. [Source: 2006 FBI Crime Statistics]

Since the C.O.P.S. program was enacted in 1994, Arizona has received more than \$255 million. Last year, Congress zeroed out the hiring portion of the C.O.P.S program. [Source: Department of Justice]

Arizona stands to benefit from the C.O.P.S. Improvement Act.

- If the C.O.P.S. Improvement Act of 2007 becomes law, 555 more police officers will likely be put on the streets. Since 1994, 5th District law enforcement agencies have hired 1,299 additional police officers through the C.O.P.S. program.
- If the C.O.P.S. Improvement Act of 2007 becomes law, 5th District agencies stand to gain an additional \$33 million. Since 1994, 5th District law enforcement agencies have been awarded more than \$110 million in C.O.P.S. grants.
- If the C.O.P.S. Improvement Act of 2007 becomes law, 5th District law enforcement agencies will likely hire 13 additional police officers to serve as school resource officers. Since 1994, 5th District law enforcement agencies have hired 30 additional school resource police officers.
- If the C.O.P.S. Improvement Act of 2007 becomes law, the 5th District will likely gain an addition \$1.66 million in grants to purchase technology that allows the agencies to put more officers in the community. Since 1994, 5th District law enforcement agencies have received more than \$5.4 million in C.O.P.S. technology grants.