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The push by House lawmakers to restore the [State Criminal Alien Assistance Program](#) to at least Fiscal Year 2009 strength paid off today. The House by voice vote adopted an amendment that would add another \$100 million to the \$300 million that a House Appropriations subcommittee restored earlier this month. President

**Barack Obama**

's Fiscal Year 2010 budget zeroed out the fund, which reimburses states such as Arizona for the costs of processing and incarcerating criminal illegal immigrants.

The SCAAP amendment was offered by Arizona Democratic Reps. **Gabrielle Giffords, Ann Kirkpatrick**

and

**Harry Mitchell**

The trio hailed its adoption in a jointly issued news release.

"This is a victory for the folks on the frontlines, fighting to stop cross-border trafficking and illegal immigration," Kirkpatrick said in a written statement. "Our law enforcement needs more resources, not fewer, and congressional leadership has recognized that. Now we can focus on launching a sustained, comprehensive effort to secure our borders and keep our communities safe."

"As long as local law enforcement agencies in Arizona are doing the federal government's job of securing our border, it is critical that they get compensated for it," Giffords echoed. "This is the fair thing to do and Congress clearly recognizes that."

"This is excellent news for states like Arizona that have seen their law enforcement communities burdened by the federal government's inability to secure the border," Mitchell added. "Their manpower and their budgets have been stretched thin and the SCAAP funding has been critical to helping ease the financial strain."