

School Resource Officer Act (H.R. 7209)

Rep. Paul Mitchell (MI-10)

Original cosponsors: Reps. Salud Carbajal (D-CA), Neal Dunn (R-FL), Al Lawson (D-FL), John Rutherford (R-FL), Don Bacon (R-NE), Lloyd Smucker (R-PA)

Sense of Congress

School resource officers are instrumental in establishing community partnerships and providing multidimensional school safety.

School resource officers are educators, informal counselors and mentors, and law enforcement officers.

Federal grants for school resource officers are intended to be a starting point for continued local action and should not divert current designated funding.

Funding for Community-Oriented Policing Services and School Resource Officers

Authorization of Appropriations: Authorizes the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program in the Department of Justice at \$300,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2022.

Note: The COPS program has operated through DOJ discretionary appropriations since authorization lapsed in FY2010. Average COPS appropriation each fiscal year during the last decade was approximately \$300 million. (\$314 million FY2010-FY2018)

School Resource Officer Set Aside: Not less than 30 percent of funding for hiring programs within the COPS program will be used to pay the salaries and benefits of school resource officers.

Note: Nearly identical grant program (“COPS in Schools”) existed as a set-aside through DOJ appropriations between FY1999 and FY2005

Awarded Grant Terms: Federal funds may provide up to 75 percent of salary and benefits of full-time officers with a 25 percent minimum local cash match requirement. Maximum federal share cap is increased to \$125,000 per officer position.

Note: Federal and local shares based on terms of previous grants awarded under COPS hiring programs. Cap increase is reflective of current varied salary costs around the country. The Inspector General has routinely issued cap waivers due to the current outdated cap.