



# Congressman Tim Bishop

*FIRST DISTRICT -- NEW YORK*

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **BISHOP FIGHTS TO BOOST FIRST RESPONDER FUNDING IN BUDGET**

*Attempts to Add \$2.2 Billion Requested by President into Budget*

**Washington**—Congressman Tim Bishop (D-Southampton) led the fight to approve \$2.2 billion in new funding for first responders in this year's budget. Bishop introduced an amendment with Congresswoman Darlene Hooley (D-Oregon) in response to concerns raised at meetings he has had with first responders from throughout the 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District who need additional help from the federal government. Although Bishop was attempting to provide first responders with the level of funding President Bush has requested, the amendment was blocked from coming to a vote on the House floor by the Republican-controlled House Rules Committee.

“The President and other leaders have cited first responders as our nation's top priority,” Bishop said. “However, a priority is only a priority when it is adequately funded. In other words, we need to put our money where our mouth is and give first responders the resources they need.”

Bishop's amendment was to next year's budget, however, it would have provided an immediate \$2.2 billion for first responders. The money would have come by reducing future tax cuts, which would primarily benefit the wealthiest Americans. President Bush has requested \$3.5 billion in new funding for first responders. However, \$2.2 billion of that request is in existing money, which was diverted from existing programs that already fund first responders. This amendment would have made up for the funding shortfall.

“First responders are struggling, particularly in highly vulnerable areas such as New York City and Long Island,” Bishop said. “It is shameful that our leaders pay lip-service to helping first responders, and then will not even allow a floor vote when we attempt to fund them at adequate levels.”

Bishop vows to continue his fight to give first responders the resources they need to protect our communities. Bishop has held several meetings with first responders, local police, firefighters and other emergency personnel and will continue to work closely with that community on issues important to them in Washington.

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