



Congressman Tim Bishop

FIRST DISTRICT -- NEW YORK

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BISHOP SUPPORTS NEW ANTI-GANG LEGISLATION

Favors 'Get Tough' Measures to Fight Gang Crimes

Washington, DC- Representative Tim Bishop voted in favor of legislation that imposes tough new penalties for violent gang crimes. Bishop broke from party lines to support the Gang Deterrence and Community Protection Act of 2005 (H.R. 1279), which was passed the House of Representatives last night by a final vote of 279-144.

“This is an important win in the fight against rapidly expanding gang activity on Long Island,” Bishop stated. He added, “We need to send a clear message to gang members that violent crime will not be tolerated. This legislation includes very serious consequences for those who commit violent crimes as a member of a gang.”

The Gang Deterrence and Community Protection Act of 2005 would help local law enforcement combat increasingly violent and well-organized gangs that are spreading from cities into suburbs and rural towns. Specifically, H.R. 1279 authorizes \$387 million to fund new interagency anti-gang law enforcement teams, hire additional federal and state prosecutors, and purchase technology to help identify gang defendants. The bill also creates a new law similar to RICO, the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations statute, to prosecute criminal gangs.

Bishop also voted for several amendments to the bill, including establishing a National Gang Intelligence Center at the FBI; funding for regional databases to track gangs in high intensity areas; adding Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives inspectors and agents to high intensity gang areas; and authorizing the attorney general to conduct a media campaign to inform the public about the new mandatory minimum prison sentences.

“We need to get serious about combating gang violence on Long Island, and the entire nation. This measure is the first step toward protecting our communities and our families from violent crime,” Bishop added.

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