



Congressman Tim Bishop

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BISHOP FUNDS FIGHT AGAINST ONLINE SEXUAL PREDATORS

SCPD's Computer Crimes Section Earns Congressional 'Earmark' to Protect Children

Washington, DC: Congressman Tim Bishop announced new federal funding today for the Suffolk County Police Department's program to target sexual predators who prey on children over the Internet. The funds will go to the Internet Crimes Against Children Prevention Program, an Internet education and safety program to be presented in area schools, which had been requested by the department's Computer Crimes Section, a nationally renowned program dedicated to identifying, apprehending and prosecuting sexual predators on the Internet. The funding was included in the fiscal year 2006 Science, State, Justice and Commerce Appropriations Bill, which passed the House of Representatives overwhelmingly by a vote of 418 to 7.

"We need to target sexual predators who stalk our children over the Internet," Bishop stated. "I am pleased to secure this funding for the Computer Crimes Section, which is doing a first-rate job of educating parents and children."

Bishop has been active in raising awareness of Internet crimes against children. Earlier this year, Bishop hosted a workshop for parents, 'Protecting Children from Online Predators: Tips and Tools for Parents' where he brought together parents with online security experts.

"The federal funds obtained by Congressman Tim Bishop will assist the Suffolk County Police Department in continuing its aggressive pursuit of sexual predators who utilize the Internet to prey on our children. I thank Congressman Bishop for his strong support of law enforcement in Suffolk County," stated Suffolk County Police Commissioner Richard Dormer.

The SCPD's Computer Crimes Section has trained detectives who go online and pose as underage children, luring sexual predators. When the predators attempt to rendezvous with their underage prey, they are then arrested before they have the opportunity to hurt our children. While the SCPD appropriation was included in the legislation, the specific dollar amount will be allocated later. The SCPD requested \$160,000 for this initiative, and Bishop is hopeful that he will secure this amount.

"I will continue to do all that I can in Congress to support the Suffolk County Police Department's efforts to combat offenses against the most vulnerable members of our community."

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