



CONGRESSMAN GARY G. MILLER

PRESS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA'S 42ND DISTRICT



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 18, 2009

CONTACT: Jessica Baker
(202) 225-3201

Congressman Miller and Several Colleagues Secure Amendment to Increase SCAAP Funding

WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Miller and fourteen of his colleagues offered a bipartisan amendment to H.R. 2847, the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, to increase funding for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) by \$100 million. This important program reimburses states for the costs of incarcerating illegal criminal aliens.

“In 2005, a Government Accountability Office report found that states spend more than \$1.7 billion each year to incarcerate criminal aliens, and Congress has only reimbursed about 20 percent of these local expenditures over the years through the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program,” said Congressman Miller. “The difference between actual expenditures and the SCAAP reimbursement level is particularly dramatic for California, which has the largest number of incarcerated illegal criminal aliens of any state in the nation. This year, the cost to California alone is estimated to be \$1 billion.”

Earlier this year, the Administration proposed to terminate SCAAP by requesting no funding for this essential program for Fiscal Year 2010. Although House appropriators went against the will of the Administration by including \$300 million for SCAAP in H.R. 2847, the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, this amount is \$100 million less than last year’s level of \$400 million. To remedy this, Congressman Miller joined several of his colleagues in offering an amendment to increase SCAAP funding by \$100 million, which will fund the program at a grand total of \$400 million for Fiscal Year 2010. The House passed this amendment by voice vote.

“At a time when California is experiencing unprecedented budget challenges, it is irresponsible for the Administration to terminate this program and place the costly burden of our nation’s failed immigration policies on state governments,” added Congressman Miller. “Taxpayers should not be burdened with funding the incarceration of criminal aliens who, by law, are the responsibility of the federal government. I am pleased the House has passed this bipartisan amendment to maintain SCAAP funding for Fiscal Year 2010 and I will continue to work with my colleagues to see that this program is fully funded in the future.”

The amendment to increase SCAAP funding was offered by Rep. Mollohan (D-WV) and was cosponsored by Reps. Calvert (R-CA), Cardoza (D-CA), Culberson (R-TX), Dreier (R-CA), Edwards (D-TX), Giffords (D-AZ), Honda (D-CA), Kirkpatrick (D-AZ), Lewis (R-CA), McCaul (R-TX), Gary Miller (R-CA), Mitchell (D-AZ), Linda Sanchez (D-CA), and Schiff (D-CA).

###