



Public Safety

The Omnibus FY 2008 spending bill passed by Congress last December appropriated \$587 million for the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program. The year prior it was funded at \$542 million. This successful program provides assistance to local law enforcement agencies to help fund crime prevention programs, school safety, technology initiatives and other local law enforcement programs.

President George W. Bush has consistently proposed consolidating the COPS program with other law enforcement grant programs, and significantly decreasing overall funding.

Last year, The U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 1700, which increased the authorization for the COPS program to \$1.15 billion in each of the next six fiscal years, beginning in 2008. Unfortunately the amount the passed Congress was not near this amount.

The COPS program has helped revolutionize law enforcement training, funded the cost of more than 100,000 police officers, increased crime-fighting technologies and, in general, dramatically improved the way local law enforcement agencies function.

Position:

The Florida League of Cities urges Congress to restore funding for proven public safety programs including COPS, Byrne Justice Assistance Grants and other state and local law enforcement assistance programs that are essential resources for preventing crime.