



## Office of Representative Heath Shuler

Representing North Carolina's Eleventh Congressional District

**For Immediate Release**

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### **Rep. Shuler Votes to Put 50,000 More Cops on the Streets** *House Restores the Highly Successful COPS Grant Program*

**Washington, D.C.** – Representative Heath Shuler today joined a bipartisan majority in the House of Representatives to pass H.R. 1700, the COPS Reauthorization Act. The COPS reauthorization is designed to help local law enforcement agencies hire an additional 50,000 police officers over the next six years. H.R. 1700 passed the House 381-34.

“Since its creation in 1994 the COPS program has been tremendously successful. I am extremely pleased that a bipartisan majority of the House came together today to reinvigorate this important program,” said Rep. Shuler. “We know that putting more police officers on the streets reduces crime, and this bill will help communities from Marion to Murphy do just that.”

Between 1995 and 2005, COPS hiring grants provided \$9 billion to help local law enforcement agencies hire 117,000 additional police officers, spread across every state. North Carolina police departments hired nearly 3000 new police officers and received \$184,260,916 in grant money through the COPS program.

However, funding for the COPS program began to be reduced significantly in the late 1990's and was eliminated completely in 2006.

H.R. 1700 corrects that error by authorizing \$600 million per year to hire officers to engage in community policing, serve as School Resource Officers, or engage in counter-terrorism duties. In addition to the hiring grants, the bill also authorizes \$350 million a year for the next six years for technology grants. These grants will allow police agencies to purchase things like lap top computers for patrol cars, crime mapping software, and interoperable communications equipment. The bill also authorizes funds for community prosecuting programs – including programs that assign prosecutors to try cases in specific geographic areas. Finally, the bill contains provisions to encourage state and local police agencies to hire former military members for some of the new law enforcement jobs under the bill.

“Many of our local governments are already stretched to the breaking point, and these grants will help provide them with greatly needed resources and equipment to continue protecting our communities,” Rep. Shuler concluded.

This legislation has been endorsed by the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the National Sheriffs Association, the Fraternal Order of Police, the National Association of Police Organizations, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, and the National League of Cities.

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