Wilson Backs Legislation That Would Bring 131 New Police Officers to Ohio's Sixth District

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Charlie Wilson (OH-6) voted in favor of and the the U.S. House of Representatives approved H.R. 1139, the COPS Improvements Act, to expand the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program. The bill would provide Ohio's Sixth Congressional District hiring grants estimated to put 131 community police officers on the streets. The bill was approved 342-78 and now moves to the Senate for consideration.

"If this legislation becomes law it would mean safer communities and new jobs for our region," Wilson said. "I'm pleased it passed the House with wide bipartisan support."

The COPS Improvements Act is designed to put 50,000 additional police officers on U.S. streets over the next 5 years by authorizing $1.25 billion a year for COPS hiring grants. It also authorizes $350 million a year for COPS technology grants, and $200 million a year for hiring community prosecutors.

Created in 1994 under the Clinton Administration, the COPS hiring grants program has been enormously successful, helping local law enforcement agencies to hire 117,000 additional police officers from 1995 to 2005. Independent studies confirm that the COPS program contributed to the national crime rate reduction over this period of time.