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News Release - 1994-08-18

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news release

CONGRESSMAN DE LA GARZA ANNOUNCES APPROVAL OF CONFERENCE REPORT ON FY 1995 COMMERCE-JUSTICE-STATE-JUDICIARY APPROPRIATIONS

For Immediate Release: 18 August 1994

WASHINGTON DC -- South Texas Congressman Kika de la Garza today said that the House approved the conference report on the Commerce-Justice-State-Judiciary Appropriations for Fiscal Year 1995 and he praised its focus on crime and immigration initiatives.

"This bill includes vital funding nation-wide for border patrol, violent crime reduction, federal prisons and other significant programs," de la Garza said. "It is the culmination of efforts of so many who have worked to continue funding for ongoing programs while opening up the way for new initiatives."

The \$26.9 billion in appropriations provide for significant funding for the Administration's Immigration Initiative, which includes \$181 million in funding for controlling the border, \$54 million for expedited deportation and \$49 million for asylum reform. It also calls for the funding of almost 1,000 additional border patrol agents on the line in Fiscal Year 1995. First priority will be given to the deployment of additional agents to areas along the border which are experiencing significant increases in apprehensions.

To take on crime and drug abuse, the bill funds a number of initiatives including \$450 million for the Byrne Grant program which provides grants to state and local law enforcement agencies for a wide variety of programs to fight violent crime and drug abuse and to improve the criminal justice system. It also has \$1.3 million for community policing through the Cops on the Beat program, \$3 million for the National Crime Prevention Council and \$1.75 million for the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program.

Further, it includes more than \$107 million for the activation of new prison facilities, funding to restore Drug Enforcement Administration positions to previous peak levels, as well as \$26 million for the Violence Against Women Act.

For additional information please contact Congressman de la Garza's Washington office at 1401 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, or call (202) 225-2531.

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