



# APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE DEMOCRATS

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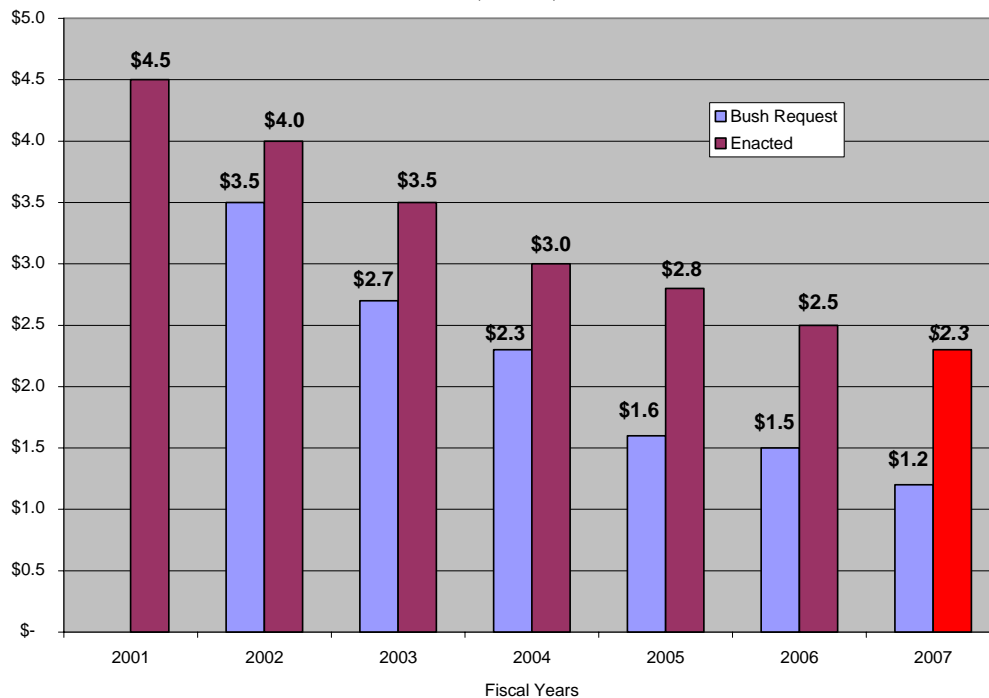
## LAW ENFORCEMENT FUNDING DOWN, CRIME UP

President Bush and the Republican Congress continue to whittle away at support for State and local law enforcement even as the latest FBI statistics show the number of murders, rapes, and aggravated assaults increased last year.

- **Overall, the Administration and the Republican Congress have cut \$2.2 billion from State and local law enforcement since 2001.** Last year, the Congress provided \$2.5 billion for law enforcement grants, \$1 billion above the President's request, but \$300 million below the 2005 level. In 2005, funding was \$1.2 billion above the request, but \$200 million below 2004. In 2004, funding was \$500 million below the 2003 level. In 2003, funding was \$500 million below the 2002 level. In 2002, funding was \$400 million below the high-water mark for Federal assistance to state and local law enforcement of \$4.4 billion in 2001.
- State and local law enforcement funding is cut by an additional \$200 million this year in the Committee-passed FY 2007 Science-State-Justice-Commerce bill. If enacted, funding will have been cut by nearly in half since 2001.

State and Local Law Enforcement Funding FY 2001 to FY 2007

(in Billions)



Last year, murders rose 4.8 percent, the largest increase in 15 years. More than 16,900 people were murdered in 2005. Overall, violent crime increased by 2.5 percent, the largest percentage increase since 1991.

In commenting on the rise in crime, one criminal justice expert blamed the increase on "the abandonment of effective programs that emphasize prevention" noting that "budgets for policing are being slashed and the federal government has gotten out of that business."<sup>1</sup>

Now is not the time to slash funding that keeps our communities crime and drug-free. Yet, Congressional Republicans are slowly getting out of the business of being tough on criminals.

<sup>1</sup> 'Violent Crime is Up for the 1<sup>st</sup> Time in 5 Years,' Associated Press, 6/12/2006