

September 24, 2003

Akin Says Homeland Security Funding Benefits St. Louis Region

Washington, D.C.- Congressman Todd Akin (R-MO) voted today to pass the Conference Report H.R. 2555, the Homeland Security Appropriation Act for Fiscal Year 2004. The conference agreement provides \$29.4 billion for operations and activities of the Department of Homeland Security, including \$4.2 billion for the Office Domestic Preparedness (ODP) that provides support and funding to State and Local first responders.

"The funding in this conference agreement strikes the proper balance between the funding of the Department and helping State and local governments prepare and train through Office for Domestic Preparedness grants," said Congressman Akin, member of the House Armed Services Committee.

The Office of Domestic preparedness has already distributed millions of dollars in grants to Missouri for training, infrastructure security and preparedness. Grants are also sometimes given directly to first responders, such as to the Chesterfield Fire Protection District which received \$71,062 in Federal assistance this year.

"The level of funding the ODP received in this agreement reflects commitment to supporting those that are on the front line of homeland defense, the local fire and police departments and other state and local agencies that are often the first line of defense," stated Akin.

This year Missouri has received millions of dollars in funding from the ODP:

- \$10.8 million 5/7/03;
- \$28.7 million 6/6/03; and
- \$19.5 million 9/3/03