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LARRY CRAIG

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NEWS RELEASE

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CRAIG COMMITTEE APPROVES MORE THAN \$750,000 FOR IDAHO LAW ENFORCEMENT PROJECTS ***-- Anti-Meth, Police Communications, Child Protection --***

WASHINGTON, D.C. – More than \$750,000 in funding for three Idaho law enforcement-related initiatives advocated by Idaho Senator Larry Craig were approved today by the Senate Appropriations Committee and now wait full Senate action.

Craig said the projects include \$300,000 for the Idaho Meth Project to support the State's aggressive effort to combat the use of Idaho's number one drug problem, costing millions annually in enforcement and incarceration spending.

"Idaho ranks fifth in the nation in methamphetamine use," Craig, a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, said Thursday. "While the cost to our State is great, the toll it takes on our families is far worse. Last year alone, meth was directly responsible for the placement of almost 200 children in foster care. The Idaho Meth Project funds a powerful, straightforward multi-media advertising campaign aimed at teens and young adults to demonstrate the toll this drug takes on young lives."

Craig reported that the Appropriations Committee Thursday also approved \$355,000 for the Idaho State Police Criminal Information Sharing Alliance Network (CISAnet) to improve information sharing among State law enforcement agencies.

At Craig's request, the Appropriations Committee also agreed to provide \$100,000 to the Nez Perce Tribe in Lapwai for its child protection programs.

All three Idaho projects were included in the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations bill.

The Appropriations Committee also reported out the fiscal year 2009 Homeland Security funding bill which contains another Craig priority – border security. Craig said the bill adds \$775 million for border security fencing and technology improvements and provides funds to hire 2,200 new Border Patrol agents.

"When the full Senate approves this funding bill, the Border Patrol will have 20,019 agents securing our borders, almost twice the number of two years ago," Craig said. "And the additional funds

for border fencing bring the total our Committee has committed to the critical goal of securing our nation's borders over the last two years to \$3.2 billion.”

The Homeland Security Appropriations bill also now goes to the full Senate for consideration.

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