

LARSON ANNOUNCES \$250,000 IN "COPS" GRANTS FOR WETHERSFIELD AND EAST WINDSOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 26, 2004

LARSON ANNOUNCES \$250,000 IN "COPS" GRANTS FOR WETHERSFIELD AND EAST WINDSOR

WASHINGTON, D.C.-U.S. Congressman John B. Larson (CT-1) today announced that Wethersfield and East Windsor have each been awarded \$125,000 federal grants from the Department of Justice's Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grant program for a total of \$250,000. The funding was awarded under the COPS in Schools program, which allows local police departments to hire School Resource Officers (SRO) who work within schools to teach crime prevention and substance-abuse classes and monitor troubled students. The program combines both law enforcement and education to best serve the students.

"I am thrilled that Wethersfield and East Windsor were awarded this valuable funding," said Larson. "This grant announcement underscores the importance that the COPS program holds for our communities in the face of efforts in Congress to slash funding for the program. The COPS in Schools program gives students, teachers, and the schools themselves the added resources they need to help ensure student safety in the classroom."

The grants provide a maximum of \$125,000 toward the salary and benefits of each new School Resource Officers over three years.

Including today's grants, the COPS in Schools program has provided over \$700 million to hire and train 6,300 School Resource Officers nationwide. Today's \$250,000 grant announcements for Wethersfield and East Windsor were part of an overall announcement of \$20.7 million to add 194 officers to schools in the nation.

Larson wrote a letter in June 2003 to the Director of the COPS program within the U.S. Department of Justice urging that the funding be awarded.

###