

Wiggins

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## Musgrave's Homeland Security amendment passes house

*Hollywood liaison funds transferred to state and local first responder grants.*

**Washington, DC:** Today, the House overwhelmingly passed an amendment introduced by Congresswoman Marilyn Musgrave (CO-04) to transfer funds currently used by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to pay a Hollywood actress and use them for state and local first responder grants instead. As a second-term Congresswoman, this is Musgrave's first legislative item to pass the House.

Last October, DHS hired actress Bobbie Faye Ferguson as the new "liaison to the entertainment industry." The job was originally posted on the government website [www.usajobs.com](http://www.usajobs.com) with a salary of \$136,000, plus benefits.

"Instead of spending \$100,000, plus, on one person who simply reviews movie scripts for the government, or help identify opportunities for Hollywood outreach and provide resources for TV and movies, we should direct this money to actually help the people who respond and save lives," said Musgrave. "The people of this country have high expectations about their security after being violated on 9/11."

Chairman Harold Rogers of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security (KY-05) stated

on the House floor, "I want to commend the gentle lady. I think this is an excellent amendment and I am delighted you've been able to ferret this out and bring it to the attention of the rest of us and I will vote for your amendment."

Musgrave's amendment transfers \$100,000 from DHS departmental management, where this money is being frivolously spent, and puts it into state and local grants, where it can be more wisely used in saving lives.

This position was not specifically authorized by Congress. In addition, DHS is currently in the process of moving Ferguson to Los Angeles, CA, and not be located at DHS headquarters in Washington, DC.

Rather than paying an actress to liaison in Hollywood, DHS could spend \$100,000 on security items such as:

- \* 694 Quick2000 Escape Hoods, similar to those stored in Congressional offices (\$144ea)

- \* Emergency PA systems like those used last week to evacuate the Capitol Building (\$179ea) 165 Bullet Resistant Vests (\$605ea)

- \* or 40 Level A HazMat Protective suits (\$2,495ea)

The House passed the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for FY2006, the overall bill Musgrave amended.