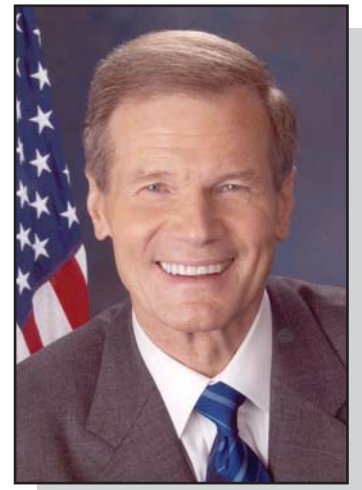


# Legislative News for PBA



*Bill Nelson*  
U.S. Senator

## COPS, BVP, and PAL Funding Update

Too often—and especially in this administration—the policies and funding decisions in Washington fail to echo the tough anti-crime talk in the halls of our government buildings. There are many examples, but three stand out.

First and foremost is the COPS program. This unprecedented effort has put over 118,000 local police officers onto our streets and has been proven effective time and again since its enactment in 1994. Not only does the COPS program work, it also has been found, in one study by the Brookings Institution, to be one of the most cost-effective options for reducing crime.

This administration has asked a great deal of law enforcement at all levels in combating terrorism, and law enforcement has stepped up to meet the challenge. Yet, this administration has decimated funding for the COPS program. At the same time, crime is on the rise and I have heard from law enforcement officials in Florida about the spike in gang activity and drug-related crime that is occurring in the state—and throughout the nation.

The COPS program helped law enforcement to bring about historic reductions in crime, and by allowing the program to languish, we are squandering the gains we made in the 1990s. That is why I once again have joined many of my colleagues in asking the appropriations committee to restore full funding of the program at \$1.15 billion for 2008. The good news is that the House of Representatives recently passed legislation to do just that, and I am hopeful that a similar measure will come before the Senate as soon as possible.

Second, not only do we need more police officers on our streets, we need to ensure that they have the equipment they need. That includes bulletproof vests, which are among the most important ways our police officers can protect

themselves. To assist communities with purchasing vests, Congress created the BVP Grant Program in 2005.

Despite authorizing \$50,000,000, the Bush Administration has sought to slash the budget for the BVP by 67 percent. I have signed a letter to the Appropriations Committee seeking full funding for the BVP Program this year, because our police officers deserve this fundamental protection while they are in the line of duty.

Finally, police officers know that they also have a vital role to play in preventing at-risk youth from going down the wrong path in the first place. One way they have done this is through the Police Athletic Leagues (PAL), a proven youth crime-prevention program headquartered in Florida that I proudly support.

In PAL chapters throughout the nation, serving approximately two million children between the ages of five and 18, police officers have helped to lower crime rates by building relationships of trust and understanding through shared athletic, recreational and educational activities. The PAL approach has been shown to work. Communities with PALs have experienced a

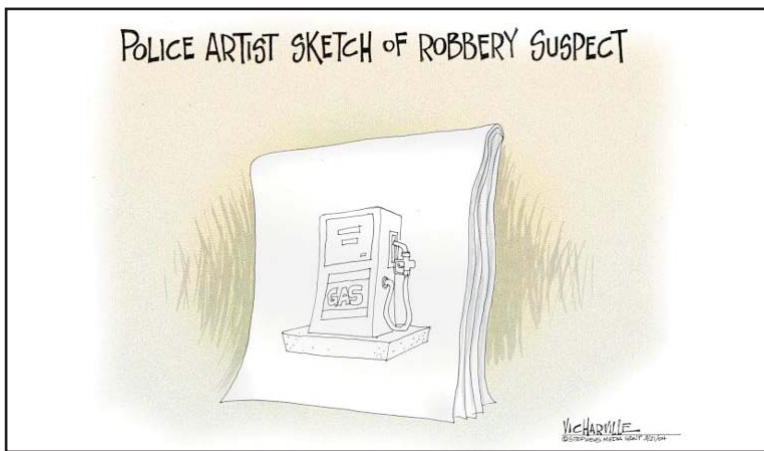
drop in juvenile crime during peak after-school hours. Because of the demonstrated effectiveness of PALs, I have joined my colleagues in calling for \$16 million for PALs in the FY2008 budget.

Today, crime rates are on the rise—and, I have seen several communities in Florida grappling with a surge in violent crimes. This is why I'm fighting in Washington for measures intended to ensure that our communities have the resources and personnel to keep our neighborhoods safe.

In Congress, we have a vital role to play in supporting the efforts of state and local law enforcement officers to expand their ranks, protect themselves, and mentor American youth so that they will remain on the right side of the law. ●

*"...I'm fighting... to ensure that our communities have the resources and personnel to keep our neighborhoods safe."*

*I am proud to represent Floridians in the U.S. Senate, where one of my goals is to make sure our state receives its fair share of federal funds. These funds give our cities and communities the tools necessary to improve the quality of life for all Floridians. And as law enforcement now plays a greater role in the fight against terror, I understand the importance of making sure you receive adequate federal resources.*



## The Letter of Reference

### To Whom It May Concern:

"Mark Smith, my assistant programmer, can always be found hard at work in his cubicle. Mark works independently, without wasting company time talking to colleagues. Mark never thinks twice about assisting fellow employees, and he always finishes given assignments on time. Often he takes extended measures to complete his work, sometimes skipping coffee breaks. Mark is a dedicated individual who has absolutely no vanity, in spite of his high accomplishments and profound knowledge in his field. I firmly believe that Mark can be classed as a high-caliber employee, the type which cannot be dispensed with. Consequently, I duly recommend that Mark be promoted to executive management, and a proposal will be executed as soon as possible."

### Delivered a short time later:

"That idiot Mark was standing over my shoulder while I wrote the letter sent to you earlier today. Kindly re-read only every other line."

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Have you moved recently, or are in the process of moving? If so, we need your new address! Please notify the PBA office of your change of address so that you won't miss any important mailings.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

New Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Work) \_\_\_\_\_

(Cell) \_\_\_\_\_ (Pager) \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_\_

(Your social security number helps us identify you correctly in case of similar names.)

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_



### Return to:

**Attn: Membership Secretaries  
Florida PBA  
300 E. Brevard Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32301-1218**

**Phone: (850) 222-3329**

