

August 15, 2006 - Slaughter Announces Federal Reauthorization of Police Athletic League

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Slaughter Announces Federal Reauthorization of Police Athletic League
PAL Programs Serve Over 2 Million Children Nationwide

Washington, DC - Rep. Louise M. Slaughter (D-Fairport), Ranking Member of the House Rules Committee, was today joined by Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown and several leaders of the Police Athletic League to announce the federal reauthorization of the PAL program throughout the United States and \$16 million in funding for the League's continued operation and expansion.

Rep. Slaughter ensured that language reauthorizing the PAL program was included in the Adam Walsh Children Protection and Safety Act, which was recently signed into law by Congress.

"The Police Athletic League has always understood how crucial it is to build relationships of mutual trust and respect between our youth and police officers," Rep. Slaughter said. "If we reach our children while they are young, we can teach them that a law-abiding life is something to aspire to, not to ridicule."

"When it comes to the future of our communities, there isn't a better investment we can make than the one made in our kids," Rep. Slaughter said. "PAL has been making that investment for generations. And as long as it does, it will have our thanks and support."

The new law also authorizes \$16 million per year in assistance to the 350 local PAL chapters around the country. The funding will also help establish new PAL chapters, and provide support for the League's annual Youth Leadership Conference, an important component of its program.

PALs have proven successful in reducing crime, producing on average a 44 percent drop in after-school juvenile crime in neighborhoods in which they are active.

The Police Athletic League is a volunteer-driven organization with an estimated 80,000 members across the country. Local PALs serve approximately 2 million children between the ages of 5 and 18 nation-wide.

Also present at the event were Detective Dennis Richards, Board President of the Buffalo PAL; Detective Mark Fitzpatrick, National PAL Board Vice President; Lt. Art Eberhart (Ret.) Executive Director of the Niagara PAL; and Captain John DeMarco, Chairman of the Niagara PAL Board and Assistant Niagara Falls Police Chief.

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