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Drug Prevention, Policing Grants Awarded

Area Programs to Receive More Than $405,000

July 20, 2001 — Southwestern Michigan residents will benefit from several grants awarded to Calhoun and Eaton Counties to increase public safety through drug prevention programs, domestic violence programs and other policing initiatives, announced Senator John Schwarz (R-Battle Creek). More than $19 million in Byrne Memorial Formula and Local Law Enforcement Block grants were awarded throughout the state.

"These grants will provide local and state police officers with the support they need to rid the streets of drug dealers and other criminals," Schwarz said. "These programs are essential for the protection of our children and families and the justice of crime victims."

Area grants include:

- Battle Creek awarded $28,360 to fund the G.R.E.A.T. and Strengthening Families curriculums which will be implemented into the parks and recreation departments' after school and summer programs;
- Albion awarded $28,319 for the Albion Personal Protection Order/Domestic Violence Program to assist victims of domestic violence and stalking;
- Calhoun County awarded $36,870 to fund a specialized domestic violence unit within the Prosecutor's Office to include prosecutions for child abuse, criminal sexual conduct and elder abuse; and
- The South West Enforcement Team, a multi-jurisdictional task force which operates in Calhoun, Barry, Branch, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph and Van Buren counties, awarded $311,560 for the cooperative investigations and prosecutions of illegal narcotics traffickers by undercover officers, uniformed officers, prosecutors, school officials and citizens working together.

The grants are administered by the Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy in the Michigan Department of Community Health.

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