

WASHINGTON – Congressman Spencer Bachus (AL-6) announced that the Alabama District Attorney's Association (ADAA) has formally been awarded a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) for a data security project to help law enforcement officials combat crime.

The funding was obtained at the request of Congressman Bachus in an appropriations bill approved by Congress last December for the current fiscal year. Of the \$117,500 in funds secured by Bachus, the ADAA will receive an \$111,794 grant with DOJ using for \$5,706 for administrative costs.

The Data Protection Program will provide all district attorneys and their 900 employees, as well as other law enforcement officials throughout the state, a secure way to exchange and store electronic information on ongoing investigations and cases. The project involves the purchase of an email server and VPN (Virtual Private Network) appliances that will encrypt data sent into the network from unsecured facilities. The system will ensure that confidential information is viewed only by the law enforcement officials it is intended for.

Congressman Bachus said, "Sensitive information on criminal cases needs to be protected. This project will help safeguard data and promote efficient communication among law enforcement personnel."

The Executive Director of the ALADA, Randy Hillman, said, "We are appreciative of the support for this project obtained by Congressman Bachus. This initiative will provide our law enforcement community with a fast and secure way to share information, and enhance our ability to use the latest technology to successfully prosecute crimes and protect public safety."

The funds are being distributed by DOJ under the Edward Byrne Memorial Discretionary Grants Program.

