WASHINGTON -- U.S. Rep. Spencer Bachus (R-AL) announced today that Alabama is being awarded an $8 million federal grant to combat crime and violence at the local level.

"This grant is an important part of helping our local law enforcement officers reduce crime and improve public safety," said Bachus. "These officers are out there putting their lives on the line each and every day to make our communities safer. We must make sure they have every possible advantage as they protect our families, our homes, our schools and our businesses."

The grant is funded by Congress through the Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Grant Program.

The funding can be used to support state and local crime fighting projects including multi-jurisdictional drug task forces, crime prevention initiatives and criminal record improvements. At least 25 percent of the cost of a project funded by this grant must be supported by state or local funds.