

## House Republican Press Release

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### Gun Trafficking Task Force taking guns away from criminals



The Statewide Firearms Trafficking Task Force, thanks to \$400,000 in funding in the state budget last year, was able to take 656 illegal firearms off the street and arrest 37 people on gun trafficking charges in 2007. Reports indicate that in 2005, operating on funding from a meager \$50,000 federal grant, the task force seized just 24 illegal weapons.

The legislature made a wise decision in re-funding this program, which I have supported since its inception several years ago. The task force has been supported by legitimate gun owners and other sportsmen across the state. It has given the Connecticut State Police an effective tool to go after those who traffic in illegal firearms.

“The Statewide Firearms Trafficking Task Force should be commended for working to get these illegal weapons off the streets, where criminals can get their hands on them and potentially harm our citizens,” said Rep. John Piscopo (R-Thomaston). “This kind of effort is proof positive that through well-crafted legislation, we can take strides to get illegal weapons off the streets while not infringing on the rights of lawful gun owners.”

*State Rep. John Piscopo represents the 76<sup>th</sup> District, consisting of Burlington, Harwinton, Litchfield and Thomaston, in the General Assembly.*