



**For Immediate Release**  
May 23, 2006

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## **Congresswoman Tubbs Jones Introduces Fugitive Safe Surrender Act**

**Washington, D.C.** -Today, Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones introduced legislation, which formally authorizes, for next three fiscal years, a federal appropriation to fund the Fugitive Safe Surrender Program within the Justice Department. Senator Mike DeWine (OH) has introduced companion legislation in the Senate.

Peter J. Elliott, United States Marshal for the Northern District of Ohio, initiated the idea to structure a faith based project that encouraged felony fugitives to voluntarily surrender, without offering amnesty. The goal was to reduce the risk to neighborhoods in which fugitives hide, as well as to law enforcement officers who pursue fugitives, and to the fugitives themselves. In cooperation with Rev. C.J. Matthews over 800 fugitives voluntarily turned themselves in at Mt. Sinai Baptist church in Cleveland during a four-day period. Those fugitives whose cases mandated their capture and detention were turned over to detention authorities while those whose cases could be decided or disposed of on-site were handled accordingly.

The program proved to be so effective, that the Department of Justice (DOJ) has scheduled eight more sites in conjunction with faith based organizations to effect safe havens for fugitive surrender. This legislation will help provide funds to assist the DOJ with the coordination and administration of the program by using the funds to move personnel and equipment to the safe surrender site to better handle cases throughout the country.

"This legislation is another critical step in breaking the cycle of criminality in this country," stated Rep. Tubbs Jones. "By providing a safe and non violent place for people on the run with outstanding warrants to meet their obligation to society, we can help these offenders to begin the process of breaking down barriers to successful community re-entry and reduce recidivism."

"In the past, law enforcement has used scams and deception to lure these offenders to justice," stated U.S. Marshal Peter J. Elliott. "The Fugitive Safe Surrender program has allowed law enforcement officials to address the numerous low-level felony warrants that exist, and at the same time regain trust within the communities they serve. With the support of Rep. Tubbs Jones and Congress, we look forward to carrying Fugitive Safe Surrender forward to many more cities across the country in the years ahead."

"I want to thank Congresswoman Tubbs Jones for embracing the concept of this program and her efforts to assist us in making this program a nationwide initiative," stated Rev. C.J. Matthews. "At the core of this program is increasing safety within our communities, for our law enforcement officers and for the offenders. This partnership between law enforcement, faith-based partners and the local judges, prosecutors, has created an additional tool for our law enforcement that has proven to be successful."

Congresswoman Tubbs Jones is also an original co-sponsor of the "Second Chance Act of 2005," H.R. 1704. This legislation allocates \$110 million towards a variety of re-entry programs. One of the main components of the bill is the funding of demonstration projects that would provide ex-offenders with a coordinated continuum of housing, education, health, employment, and mentoring services. This broad array of services would provide stability and make the transition for ex-offenders easier, in turn reducing recidivism.

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