



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
December 11, 2006

CONTACT: Sean Oblack 202-226-8348

### **Schiff Provision Requiring Frequent, Mandatory Drug Testing for Chronic Drug Offenders Passes Both House and Senate**

WASHINGTON, DC - Late last Friday, night before the House and Senate finished up their legislative business for the year, both chambers of Congress passed a provision authored by Congressman Adam Schiff (D-CA) that calls for frequent, mandatory drug testing for chronic drug offenders and includes immediate graduated sanctions for violators. The provision passed as part of the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act and has now been sent to the President to be signed into law.

"When drug users are already in the criminal justice system, we must take a bold new approach to monitor their abuse, which involves constant testing and immediate sanctions for continued drug use," said Schiff. "This program is a terrific first step, and I am pleased this measure passed."

The provision called "coerced abstinence," will establish a system where a participant is tested every 72 hours and a dirty test will lead to an immediate, unpleasant sanction - for example 8 hours in a jury box or 24 hours in jail. Participants are simultaneously offered incentives such as drug treatment or other rehabilitative services. This approach is currently finding great success in Honolulu, Hawaii, where previous drug tests turned up 21.9% positive and 10% missed appointments altogether. With this program in place, the positive drug tests dropped to 3.8% and the missed appointment rate dropped to 1.3%.

Approximately 80 percent of the nation's cocaine is consumed by approximately four million chronic users. Three-quarters of these users are currently under the supervision of the criminal justice system.

Congressman Schiff is the Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus on the Judicial Branch and a member of the House Judiciary Committee. He is also a former Assistant U.S. Attorney in Los Angeles. He represents California's 29th Congressional District, which includes the communities of Alhambra, Altadena, Burbank, East Pasadena, East San Gabriel, Glendale, Monterey Park, Pasadena, San Gabriel, South Pasadena and Temple City.

-30-

Sean Oblack  
Press Secretary  
Congressman Adam Schiff (CA-29)  
202-226-8348 direct  
202-225-3278 cell