

Rep. Nunes works to increase minority home ownership

American Dream Down-payment Initiative will help 40,000 low-income and minority families afford a home

Working with Housing Secretary Mel Martinez and other members of the Congressional Hispanic Conference, Rep. Devin Nunes is co-sponsoring the Bush Administration's *American Dream Down-payment Initiative* legislation

"I am pleased to have met with the Congressional Hispanic Conference because we share a belief in the great value of homeownership for families and communities," Martinez said.

The *American Dream Down-payment Initiative* will

open the door of homeownership to 40,000 more low-income and minority families



**HUD Secretary
Mel Martinez**

by helping to offset the upfront costs of buying a home.

Mr. Nunes, who is Vice-Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Conference,

said, "Homeownership is the foundation upon which the American Dream is built. It's an integral part of taking pride in your family life and your community. As your family's largest, single investment, it's also an im-

portant part of your family's financial future."

The Blueprint for the American Dream Partnership, created last year by Martinez in response to President Bush's call to create 5.5 million new minority homeowners by 2010, is a coalition involving every segment of the housing industry. HUD and its partners hope to achieve the President's goal by:

- Educating more people in the home buying process;
- Increasing the supply of affordable homes;
- Providing more down payment and closing cost assistance; and
- Offering more home financing options for lower income Americans.

Western Caucus

The congressman is taking steps to protect many California ideals by joining the Western Caucus.

The Western Caucus is a group of more than 50 members of Congress committed to the principles of a new environmentalism. The mission of Western Caucus is to focus on common sense environmental and natural resources policies. The Western Caucus strongly supports the following principles: Private Property Rights, Access to Public Lands, Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT), Local Control, Sound Science and Technology, Rural Quality of Life.

Health Summit—cont.'d

said.

Special attention is being focused on gathering input from physicians, who will be invited to attend an evening workshop tailored for their busy schedules prior to the summit.

While the challenges facing health care delivery are diverse and complicated, Mr. Nunes and medical leaders believe some of the root problems can be alleviated by focusing on ways to recruit and retain physicians in the rural region, and to relieve overcrowding and inappropriate use of hospital emergency departments by residents who are under- or uninsured.

"There is no silver bullet cure for poverty, but there are things we can do to make it easier to care for their health care needs," Mr. Nunes said.

The congressman and organizers hope their effort will ultimately be aided in part by a little-known executive order that calls on all agencies of



the federal government to work towards alleviating the poor economic conditions of the region.

The summit will include leaders in Fresno, Kings and Tulare counties. It is being put on by the Kaweah Delta Hospital Foundation, the Hospital Council and the Tulare County Medical Society. The development of the summit has been guided by a 14-member steering committee of health care leaders.

Congressional Mining Caucus

In 2002, the 21st Congressional District of California received more than \$88 million in direct and indirect economic benefit from the domestic mining industry. There were at least 140 companies in the local area that are dependent on direct sales to the industry or use products in their processes that can only be produced from mining resources. All of this translates to almost 900 jobs for the district.

For this reason, Congressman Nunes joined the Congressional Mining Caucus. This caucus is designed to educate members on the economic, marketing, legislative and regulatory changes facing all sectors of the mining industry, including coal, base, precious, specialty and strategic minerals as well as agricultural and industrial minerals.