

Legislative work—cont.'d

U.S. Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services program. These grant funds will be used to improve security at schools and on school grounds.

Visalia Unified School District was awarded a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Community Technology Centers Program for \$475,850. The grant funds will be used to establish a Community Technology Center in each of the four district high schools. The project will increase academic achievement, expand access to information technology to the economically disadvantaged, increase employability of student participants by improving career preparation skills, increase parental involvement, and provide support to the school district by strengthening ties to the business community.

The Police Activities League/Sanger Interagency Youth Community Services was awarded a grant of \$100,000 through the Drug-Free Communities Support Program from the Executive Office of the President, Office of National Drug Control Policy. The grant will help reduce substance abuse among youth and strengthen community anti-drug coalitions.

Community Development

The cities of Dinuba (\$35,000), Lindsay (\$70,000), Woodlake (\$35,000), and the County of Tulare (\$70,000) were each awarded funds through the State of California Department of Housing and



Community Development-Planning and Technical Assistance Allocation of the State Community Development Block Grant Program. These grants will help the communities lay the groundwork for affordable housing and economic development activities that will benefit low-income residents.

Healthcare

Nurses

Last year, Congress took the critical step of passing the Nurse Reinvestment Act, which expanded and improved the nursing workforce development program. With our nation struggling with a growing shortage of registered nurses, proper funding of this program is essential. Congressman Nunes urged House and Senate appropriators to provide an additional \$50 million in this year's spending package to address nursing education and recruitment.

Medicaid

As Congress continues to work out details on the final Medicare reform bill, Congressman Nunes joined a bipartisan group of California Representatives supporting the inclusion of full funding for the Disproportionate

Share Hospital (DSH) payment program, which helps to offset the expenses incurred by providers serving Medicaid patients and others who are underinsured. Congressman Nunes was an original cosponsor of H.R. 1, the House version of the Medicare reform bill, which included this important provision. The drastic payment reductions absorbed this year by California's safety net providers threaten access to necessary health care services for Medicaid recipients, the uninsured and all Californians. The House Medicaid DSH provision would go a long way toward improving the stability of the healthcare safety net around the nation.

Mining

Within the 21st Congressional District there are fifty five companies, with a total sales of over \$100 million, that use mining materials. To assist these companies and the folks they employ, Rep. Nunes joined the Congressional Mining Caucus. This Caucus was established to educate Members on regulatory and legislative ideas and how they impact the mining industry. The Caucus will serve as an education and information resource for Members, and will address the present and future needs of the U.S. mining industry. The end goal is to promote policies which balance economic, political and environmental concerns.