

Legislative work—cont.'d

Nguyen Van Ly, who was imprisoned by the Socialist Republic of Vietnam based on his religious beliefs.

Portugal

Congressman Nunes sent a letter to Portuguese Prime Minister Jose Manuel Durao Barroso thanking Portugal for hosting the summit in the Azores between President Bush, Prime Minister Tony Blair, and Spanish President Jose Maria Aznar. The letter also expresses thanks to Portugal for its help in the war on terrorism.

Rep. Nunes wrote a letter to Secretary of Defense Donald



Rumsfeld and Secretary of State Colin Powell urging them to meet with the President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Portugal, João Bosco Mota Amaral and a delegation of Portuguese parliamentary leaders when they come to Washington DC in July of 2003.

Grant Support

Commercial Growth - - Fresno County Grant

Congressman Nunes wrote a letter expressing support for a grant request submitted by the County of Fresno to the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development's Rural Business Opportunity Grant. The grant seeks \$50,000 to help develop commercial and industrial growth along Highway 99 between Kings-

burg and Fowler. The program would focus on targeting firms that offer plant tours and recruiting them into the area and also assist existing firms develop and advertise plant tours. This would encourage commercial and industrial growth and provide employment opportunities for local residents.

Hispanic-Serving Institutions -- Higher Education

Congressman Nunes wrote a letter expressing support for a grant request submitted by the Fresno City College Educational Resource Center to the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The grant seeks \$600,000 to help Hispanic-Serving Institutions of higher education expand their role and effectiveness in addressing community development needs in their localities. This would include neighborhood revitalization, housing services, and economic development. This grant would enable low-income families achieve a higher level of educational empowerment and lower a significant barrier they face in identifying educational and career goals.

Housing Assistance

Congressman Nunes wrote letters expressing support for three grant requests submitted by the Housing Authorities of the City and County of Fresno to the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The first grant request seeks \$1,286,000 to help provide low-income and

homeless persons living with HIV/AIDS rental assistance. In addition, the grant will help provide credit counseling services, case management, life counseling, medical services, and transportation services.

The second grant request seeks funds to provide housing vouchers under the "Housing Choice Program" to enable persons with disabilities to lease affordable private housing.

The third grant request seeks \$60,000 to help provide housing counseling services to low-income families and prepare them for homeownership. Services funded by the grant would include assisting families during transition from renting to homeownership and training on how to make informed decisions in selecting, maintaining and retaining a home.

Judicial

Extradition

Congressman Nunes co-sponsored H.Con.Res. 93, which expresses the sense of Congress that the President should renegotiate the extradition treaty with Mexico. This is to ensure that the possibilities of the death penalty or life imprisonment does not interfere with a timely extradition of criminal suspects from Mexico to the U.S.

Methamphetamine

Central Valley High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)

Congressman Nunes

wrote a letter to Chairman Ernest Istook of the Appropriation's Subcommittee on Transportation and Treasury urging him to look into the \$20 million increase in the Fiscal Year 2003 funding level for the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) - specifically the Central Valley HIDTA. This letter was cosigned by 30 of his colleagues. Congressman Nunes has received information that a major portion of the \$20 million increase will be designated for the Consolidated Priority Operational Targets (CPOT) program, which, in essence, duplicates the Organized Crime-Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) program. Considering that the Meth Caucus specifically asked for this money to help fight the meth problem, he believes that diverting this money from the HIDTA program is contrary to congressional intent. Furthermore, considering that the CPOT program mainly focuses on the top 53 international drug targets, he fears that the primarily California-based methamphetamine trafficking organizations will not receive the attention that was intended by the original funding request. Therefore, with decreased funding, the meth problem will far exceed our ability to deal with it effectively.

Protective Equipment and Training

To assist local law enforcement in the meth fight, Congressman Nunes co-sponsored the METH MASK

See next page