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Rep. Devin Nunes talks with Diana Dooley, general counsel of Children's Hospital Central Valley, about its service to children and their families throughout Fresno and Tulare counties and beyond.

use of reformulated gasoline. Approval will allow California refiners the flexibility to produce more cost-effective gasoline formulations, saving consumers money at the pump.

Foreign Relations

Laos

Due to the unfolding humanitarian crisis in Laos, Rep. Nunes requested, in a letter to our United Nations Ambassador John Negroponte, that a UN representative or fact-finding mission be sent to Laos to monitor the treatment of hundreds of Hmong-Lao, many of whom are former insurgents and their families, who have recently emerged from the jungles of Laos. A high-level UN presence is essential in securing the safety of these individuals, as well as in providing greater transparency regarding Lao governmental actions to the international community.

Thailand

To help develop market access for Central Valley farmers, Rep. Nunes joined the Friends of Thailand Caucus which is aimed at further promoting the growing relationship between the U.S. and Thailand. While the Caucus will work to strengthen our ties in all its facets, it will also be crucial as the Administration works to negotiate a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with Thailand. Those negotiations are expected to begin later this year.

Grant Support

Ag Crime

Tulare County Office of the District Attorney (ACTION Project) was awarded a grant of \$1,291,550 through the US Department of Justice. The grant funds will be used to fund the operations of the ACTION project. The ACTION project is a six-prong approach to ad-

ressing the issue of agricultural crime.

Registered Nurses

Congressman Nunes wrote a letter expressing support for a grant application submitted by the Tulare County Workforce Investment Board to the National Association of Workforce Boards - High Growth Job Training Initiative. The grant request seeks funds that will allow it to be selected as a model site in the high growth, high demand industry of healthcare. The proposed expression of interest will help fund Licensed Vocational Nurses and Registered Nursing programs.

Fresno Yosemite International Airport

Fresno City - Yosemite International Airport was awarded a grant of \$2,000,000 through the US Department of Transportation. The grant funds, part of a continuing award program, will be used to continue noise abatement programs on homes surrounding the airport.

Tulare Community Health Clinic

Tulare Community Health Clinic was awarded a grant of \$494,210 from the US Department of Health and Human Services. The grant funds, part of a continuing award program, will be used to increase access to comprehensive primary and preventative health care and improve the health status of underserved and vulnerable populations in the area.

Healthcare

Rural Community Health Centers

There are more than 3,500 community health centers in the United States. These facilities operate in rural and urban neighborhoods. They are located in communities that are designated as medically underserved because healthcare is either scarce or non-existent and provide very important services to uninsured Americans. Demonstrating the importance of these facilities, they currently serve nearly 15 million people on an annual basis. President Bush has called for substantial funding increases to make more community health centers available and has made them a cornerstone of his healthcare policy. Congressman Nunes recently sent a letter to the House Appropriations Committee in support of this effort.

Safety Net Health System

Congressman Nunes opposes any efforts that will erode progress in Medicare and Medicaid reform. To this end, he communicated his concerns to the House Budget Committee and requested appropriate funding levels to maintain important services in our nation's safety net health system.