

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 12, 2002

The Honorable Frank Wolf  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce,  
Justice, State, and Judiciary  
H309 Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Wolf:

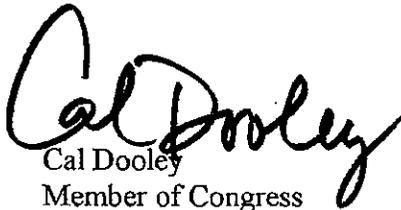
As your subcommittee prepares the FY2003 Commerce, Justice, State Appropriations bill, I ask you to include \$500,000 for the Keep Kids in School (KKIS) program, which is an anti-truancy program in collaboration with the Fresno County District Attorney's office, the Fresno County Probation Department, and the Fresno Unified School District.

During the 1999-2000 school year, more than 27,000 students in the school district were considered truant, and 14,331 of these students were considered habitual truants. The KKIS program has been successfully piloted in ten schools, and the school district seeks additional funds for program expansion. The funds will be used to hire additional district attorneys to serve as case managers; county probation officers, and other costs associated with the program.

The KKIS program is an integral part of a comprehensive strategy in Fresno to combat school truancy. KKIS is complemented by three Operation Stay in School centers, where Fresno police officers bring students who are found on the street during regular school hours. In addition, the school district is investing in computer software that will enable administrators to provide a more detailed accounting of its truancy issues.

As you can see, the community has strongly invested in this program, and I strongly urge the committee to support this request. Please let me know if I can provide additional information.

Sincerely,

  
Cal Dooley  
Member of Congress

  
George Radanovich  
Member of Congress