

There is no issue that causes more fear in our communities than gang violence. Here in Washington, I'm working hard to support the efforts of the Salinas Police Department and the Monterey County Sheriff's Department. In 2008 and 2009, the federal government has provided \$3.4 million to the Joint Gang Task Force and \$2.9 million to the Silver Star Gang Prevention and Intervention Program. Both of these programs are vital for the effort to control gang violence, and I will continue supporting them.

Money, of course, cannot cure this disease. It will take effort by every member of the community, not just our elected officials. There is no simple solution. It will take a combination of enforcement and prevention to address the gangs who have taken up residence here. We must patrol our streets, but we must also keep children from joining gangs in the first place.

It's my hope that city and county officials will work to energize all of the public and get all stakeholders involved.

### **Prevention**

Silver Star is the gang prevention and intervention component of the Monterey County Joint Gang Task force. The program's resource center is a collaboration of several community agencies offering a one-stop shop for children and young adults who need help in the areas of gang involvement, substance abuse, truancy, employment, mental health and family conflict.

The program provides counseling, educational and job preparation services and serves more than 3,000 minors each year. Through my work on the House Appropriations Committee, the program has received \$2.9 million since 2005.

### **Enforcement**

The Street Violence and Anti-Gang Project is the countywide task force that is working to quell gang violence. The task force was created in March 2005 and is made up of personnel from the California Highway Patrol, the Salinas Police Department and the Monterey County Sheriff's Department, Probation Department and District Attorney's office. We have succeeded in securing \$3.4 million since 2005 for the program.