



**ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY
SAN DIEGO CHAPTER**

10 March 2009

SUBJECT: AB No. 351- Physical Education

Kevin Jeffries, Assembly Member 66th District
41391 Kalmia Street, Ste. 220
Murrieta, CA 92562

Dear Assemblyman Jeffries,

On behalf of the San Diego Chapter, Association of the United States Army, AUSA, request your support of AB No. 351- Physical Education, as proposed by Assembly Member Mary Salas, 79th District. This bill states that specified programs and courses, including the Junior Reserve Officer Corps (JROTC) do meet physical education requirements of the California Education Code.

The California Department of Education (CDE) has voiced concerns recently about the practice of granting physical education credits to students enrolled in the JROTC program and has suggested that physical education credit not be awarded. Yet, Governor Schwarznegger, in a response to a recent letter of concern from Secretary of Defense Gates indicated that JROTC has been given physical education credit in California historically because of the very nature of the program. We totally agree with that assessment. Students must be physically fit to accomplish the rigorous objectives of the course. JROTC students are tested based on the President's Physical Fitness Program. Annual physical education testing in our schools includes the JROTC. Therefore, we question the CDE opinion. AB 351 clears the air.

As you may know, student graduation requirements make for full student schedules. Denying physical education credit for JROTC could make it very difficult for most aspiring students to take the course and physical education concurrently. Denying credit will ultimately eliminate the JROTC should room on student schedules not be available. This would be especially critical for 9th and 10th grade students.

We understand that local school boards are ultimately responsible for determining what curricula will meet graduation requirements. Currently, the San Diego Unified School District Board of Education and others throughout the state continue to grant physical education/graduation credit for high school students who successfully complete JROTC.

We strongly believe that AB No. 351 is in the best interest of our children and the State of California.

Sincerely,

GERALD E. WEBB
Colonel, US Army, Retired
President

**2525 Coyote Ridge Terrace
Chula Vista, CA 91915
Tel: 619.934.7614
Fax: 619.934 7615
E-mail: gewebb01@att.net**