



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

MILITARY DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS, CALIFORNIA CADET CORPS
10620 MATHER BLVD, SUITE 6
MATHER, CALIFORNIA 95655-4125

CACC-HQ-XO

March 25, 2009

The Honorable Julia Brownley
Chairperson, California State Assembly Committee on Education
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942895
Sacramento, California 94249

Dear Assemblymember Brownley,

I am writing to encourage your support for AB 351 which would allow participants in programs such as the California Cadet Corps and Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps to receive physical education credit.

The California Cadet Corps is the oldest school-based leadership development program in the United States. Founded in 1911, the California Cadet Corps is approaching its centennial year. The California Cadet Corps strives to promote leadership, citizenship, patriotism, basic military knowledge, academic excellence, and personal wellness. The California Cadet Corps improves attendance, reduces suspensions, reduces disciplinary referrals, helps students avoid gangs and drugs, increases academic achievement, and increases college-going rates.

The Cadet Corps curriculum is fully aligned with the California Model Content Standards for Physical Education. Cadets participate in moderate to vigorous physical activity each week. They learn motor skills, individual, dual, and team sports, and principles of health and personal wellness. Their instruction includes lessons on nutrition, conflict, anger and stress management, emotional wellness strategies, personal fitness planning, and weight management.

Since the decision by the California Department of Education that limited access to physical education credit for programs such as the Cadet Corps, about 40 schools with Cadet programs have seen dramatic drops in enrollment or been eliminated altogether.

The Cadet Corps curriculum does an excellent job of preparing cadets for the Fitnessgram. Cadets presently take and pass the Fitnessgram at a rate statistically significantly higher than their non-cadet counterparts. We know that the California Cadet Corps program is achieving great results with the youth of California. AB351 will allow schools to grant cadets physical education credit. This will allow thousands more students to enroll in the program because they will be able to access physical education credit for a class with many benefits, including the promotion of health and fitness.

Sincerely,

DAVID B. WERNER
Colonel, California Cadet Corps
Executive Officer