

Rep. Henry Cuellar Supports Partnerships with Mexico & Central America *Providing Foreign Aid and Law Enforcement Resources to the Region*

Rep. Cuellar is the Co-Chairman of the *U.S.-Mexico Interparliamentary Group*.

- Ensuring that the essential U.S.-Mexico bilateral relationship remains strong and effective today and into the future.
- Supporting America's economic, cultural and security interests, while maintaining critical diplomatic relationship with our southern neighbor.

Rep. Cuellar helped secure \$750,000,000 to implement the *United States Strategy for Engagement in Mexico and Central America, in 2015*.

- Supporting the "Plan of the Alliance for Prosperity in the Northern Triangle of Central America."
- Helping to reduce illegal immigration to the United States.
- Bolstering regional governance, prosperity, and security.

Rep. Cuellar helped establish the *High-Level Economic Dialogue (HLED)* between the U.S. and Mexico.

- Flexible platform intended to advance strategic economic and commercial priorities central to promoting mutual economic growth, job creation, and global competitiveness.
- Facilitating dialogue and joint initiatives organized around three broad pillars: 1) Promoting Competitiveness and Connectivity; 2) Fostering Economic Growth, Productivity, and Innovation; and 3) Partnering for Regional and Global Leadership.

Active / Passed Legislation

Rep. Cuellar Helped Lead the Passage of the *United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) of 2019*. [Passed into Law]

- Trilateral free trade agreement that will expand opportunities for American businesses, workers, and farmers.
- Agreement is creating more balanced, reciprocal trade supporting high-paying jobs for Americans and grow the North American economy.
- It is supporting a 21st Century economy through new protections for U.S. intellectual property and ensuring opportunities for trade in U.S. services.

Rep. Cuellar is the Author of the *North American Development Bank (NADB) Improvement Act of 2019*. [Added to USMCA] [Passed into Law]

- Doubles the capital reauthorization for the North American Development Bank (NADB) to \$6 billion.
- NADB provides financial support for the development and implementation of infrastructure projects to help preserve, protect, and enhance the environment at the borders.
- A new authorization of \$215 million to fund this capital increase was included in the FY20 appropriations bill for the purpose of providing immediate assistance to border communities.
- An additional \$250 million in funding was secured through the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA).

Rep. Cuellar is the Author of the *United States-Mexico Electricity Exchange Act*. [Introduced in the House]

- The Secretary of Energy is directed to work with the appropriate representatives of the Government of Mexico to establish a United States-Mexico Electricity Exchange Initiative to promote the interconnection of electric transmission facilities between the southern border States of the United States and Mexico.
- The Secretary of Energy is directed to conduct a study on the opportunities and obstacles to cross-border trade of electricity; strengthen electric grid resilience and reliability in the border region; promote the

generation and exchange of electricity in the border region; and strengthen the economic conditions in the border region.

Rep. Cuellar is the Author of the *United States-Mexico Tourism Improvement Act of 2021*. [Introduced in the House]

- Directs the Department of State to emphasize bilateral and corporative tourism policies with Mexico.
- Promotes U.S.-Mexico tourism initiatives, while encouraging U.S. and Mexican nonprofit groups and the private sector to support entrepreneurship development.

Rep. Cuellar is the Author of the *United States-Mexico Economic Partnership Act of 2019*. [Passed into Law]

- Directs the Department of State to develop a strategy to enhance economic cooperation and expand professional and educational exchange programs between the United States and Mexico.
- Encourages more academic exchanges between the countries, as well as exchanges to encourage strengthening business skills and entrepreneurship.

Rep. Cuellar is the Author of the *Western Hemisphere Resource Assessment Amendment – NDAA 2020* [Passed into Law]

- Directs the Department of Defense, in collaboration with the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development, to assess U.S. funding and resource allocations in the region.
- The assessments focus on investments made by China, Iran, and Russia in the Western Hemisphere.

Fiscal Year 2022 Appropriations Provisions

FY22 Agriculture & Rural Development Appropriations Provisions

Rep. Cuellar secured language directing USDA’s Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) to develop agricultural working groups with its counterparts in Central America and Mexico.

- Improving the efficiency of the agricultural inspection process.
- Addressing agricultural trade facilitation issues.
- Utilizing existing programs for academic exchanges in agriculture-related fields of study in the region.

FY22 Energy & Water Development Appropriations Provisions

Rep. Cuellar helped secure \$17,600,000 to develop methods to combat Harmful Algae Blooms and the Spread of Sargassum.

- \$4,000,000 to supplement activities related to harmful algal blooms and directs the Corps to target freshwater ecosystems.
- \$5,600,000 for the Army Corps of Engineers to develop next-generation ecological models to aid in algal bloom detection, prevention, and management techniques.
- \$8,000,000 for to supplement activities related to harmful algal bloom research and control.

FY22 Homeland Security Appropriations Provisions

Rep. Cuellar secured language that will help provide support and funding for outbound inspections.

- Will interdict the flow of firearms and illicit currency that fund criminal organizations.
- Includes commitment to scanning 100% of commercial and passenger vehicles entering the U.S. at land ports of entry along the border.

FY22 Interior & Environment Appropriations Provisions

Rep. Cuellar helped secure \$26,739,000 to research containment strategies to combat Harmful Algae Blooms and the Spread of Sargassum.

- \$26,739,000 for Environmental Health programs, including funding for Contaminant Biology research, through the United States Geological Survey (USGS) for research on the impacts of unconventional oil and gas.
- Increase of \$1,000,000 above the budget request in Toxic Substances Hydrology for harmful algal bloom research.

Rep. Cuellar secured \$35,000,000 for U.S.-Mexico Border EPA State and Tribal Assistance Grants.

FY22 State & Foreign Operations Appropriations Provisions

Rep. Cuellar helped secure over \$158,910,000 in foreign aid and law enforcement funding to Mexico.

- \$100,000,000 for Mexico under International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement.
- \$50,000,000 for Mexico under Economic Support.
- \$6,000,000 for Mexico under Foreign Military Financing Program.
- \$1,750,000 for Mexico under International Military Education and Training.
- \$1,160,000 is from Nonproliferation, Anti-terrorism, Demining and Related Programs

FY22 Transportation & Housing Appropriations Provisions

Rep. Cuellar secured language creating a U.S.-Mexico Infrastructure Coordinator to improve freight infrastructure development at the southwest border.

- Designates a lead infrastructure coordinator to facilitate more efficient development of international, cross-border infrastructure projects, which is critical to maintaining the U.S.-Mexico bilateral trade relationship.
- Strengthens coordination between the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), General Services Administration (GSA), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and their Mexican counterparts.

Fiscal Year 2021 Appropriations Provisions

FY21 Agriculture & Rural Development Appropriations Provisions

Rep. Cuellar secured language directing USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) to develop agricultural working groups with its counterparts in Central America and Mexico.

- Improving the efficiency of the agricultural inspection process.
- Addressing agricultural trade facilitation issues.
- Utilizing existing programs for academic exchanges in agriculture-related fields of study in the region.

FY21 Energy & Water Development Appropriations Provisions

Rep. Cuellar helped secure \$14,825,000 to develop methods to combat Harmful Algae Blooms and the Spread of Sargassum.

- \$4,000,000 to supplement activities related to harmful algal blooms and directs the Corps to target freshwater ecosystems.
- \$7,325,000 for the Army Corps of Engineers to develop next-generation ecological models to aid in algal bloom detection, prevention, and management techniques.

- \$3,500,000 to supplement activities related to harmful algal blooms and directs the Corps to work collaboratively with appropriate university partners.

FY21 Interior & Environment Appropriations Provisions

Rep. Cuellar helped secure \$24,745,000 to research containment strategies to combat Harmful Algae Blooms and the Spread of Sargassum.

- \$10,397,000 for Contaminant Biology research, through the United States Geological Survey (USGS) for research on the impacts of unconventional oil and gas.
- \$14,348,000 for toxic substances hydrology, which includes \$2,000,000 for research on harmful algal blooms.

Rep. Cuellar secured \$30,000,000 for U.S.-Mexico Border EPA State and Tribal Assistance Grants.

FY21 State & Foreign Operations Appropriations Provisions

Rep. Cuellar helped secure over \$158,910,000 in foreign aid and law enforcement funding to Mexico.

- \$100,000,000 for Mexico under International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement.
- \$50,000,000 for Mexico under Economic Support.
- \$6,000,000 for Mexico under Foreign Military Financing Program.
- \$1,750,000 for Mexico under International Military Education and Training.
- \$1,160,000 is from Nonproliferation, Anti-terrorism, Demining and Related Programs

FY21 Transportation & Housing Appropriations Provisions

Rep. Cuellar secured language creating a U.S.-Mexico Infrastructure Coordinator to improve freight infrastructure development at the southwest border.

- Designates a lead infrastructure coordinator to facilitate more efficient development of international, cross-border infrastructure projects, which is critical to maintaining the U.S.-Mexico bilateral trade relationship.
- Strengthens coordination between the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), General Services Administration (GSA), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and their Mexican counterparts.

FY21 Homeland Security Appropriations Provisions

Rep. Cuellar secured language that will help provide support and funding for outbound inspections.

- Will interdict the flow of firearms and illicit currency that fund criminal organizations.
- Includes commitment to scanning 100% of commercial and passenger vehicles entering the U.S. at land ports of entry along the border.