

## **Rep. Cuellar Supports Migrant Workers and Families** *Helps Secure Funding for Migrant Education and Jobs Programs*

### **FY22 Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations**

1. **[REP. CUELLAR SECURED]** *Report Language:* “Migrant and Seasonal Head Start (MSHS) Eligibility Requirements.— The Committee remains concerned about how enrollment and eligibility requirements for the MSHS program may act as barriers for low-income farmworker families seeking MSHS services. The Committee reiterates the need for the report on the Impact of the Federal Poverty Guideline, as requested in House Report 116- 450, including the section examining how such requirements may be affecting MSHS. The Committee expects the OHS to brief the Committees on the findings and recommendations of that report as soon as practicable, but not later than 30 days after enactment of this Act, so that it can continue to discuss possible solutions to expand access to such families. In addition, the Committee is concerned that families applying for MSHS services may be deemed ineligible based on the disruption to the lives of agricultural workers as a result of the COVID 19 pandemic. The Committee understands that several flexibilities exist with regard to how a farmworker can demonstrate eligibility for MSHS programs and directs OHS to issue guidance within 30 days of enactment of this Act on the flexibilities MSHS programs can offer farmworker families with regard to demonstrating income eligibility, or residency, if they were unable to migrate as a result of the pandemic.” (House Report Page 216)
  
2. **[REP. CUELLAR SECURED]** *Report Language:* “Most Vulnerable Communities GAO Study.—The Committee directs GAO to conduct a study identifying whether Head Start meets the needs of the most vulnerable children and communities around the country, or whether flexibility could be given in order to allocate funds to communities, age groups, or families that are in greatest need around the country.” (House Report Page 216)
  
3. **[REP. CUELLAR SECURED]** *Report Language:* “Child Care Facilities Needs Assessment.-The Committee appreciates that ACF is in the process of conducting a feasibility study to determine how States could conduct needs assessments of their child care and early education facilities. The Committee directs ACF to continue to dedicate a portion of Federal CCDBG research funding (42 U.S.C. 9858m) as it evaluates possible methodologies for conducting facilities needs assessments and prepares cost estimates for the funding that would be necessary for experts to conduct Statewide needs assessments. As part of that evaluation, the Committee expects the Office of Child Care (OCC) to engage with key experts and stakeholders who have worked on recent facilities standards reports, conducted Statewide facilities needs assessments, and who have experience in conducting Statewide needs assessments or working on child care and early childhood education facilities issues. OCC shall brief the Committee on its findings as soon as practicable, and include the recommended methodology, along with the resources that would be necessary to fund such Statewide needs assessments in the fiscal year 2023 Congressional Budget Justification.

The Committee encourages HHS to coordinate with the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Bureau of Indian Affairs as it assesses the child care infrastructure and early learning needs in underserved rural and tribal communities, including for Head Start and early Head Start facilities. Further, the Committee encourages HHS to consult with the Department of Agriculture Rural Development, Small Business Administration, and the Department of Treasury Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, on potential opportunities to leverage resources available to bolster early childhood learning and development in rural America. (House Report Pages 213-214)

4. **[REP. CUELLAR SECURED]** *Report Language:* “Promoting Postbaccalaureate Opportunities for Americans: This program provides expanded postbaccalaureate educational opportunities for the academic attainment of Hispanic and low-income students. In addition, it expands academic offerings and

enhances program quality at IHEs educating the majority of Hispanic college students. In addition, the American Rescue Plan Act (P.L. 117–2) included \$50,179,000 for the Promoting Postbaccalaureate Opportunities for Hispanic Americans program to directly support students and institutions addressing effects of COVID–19.” (House Report Page 294)

5. **[REP. CUELLAR SECURED]** *Report Language:* “\$66,123,000 for High School Equivalency Program (HEP) and the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP).” (Increase of \$20,000,000 from FY21: \$46,123,000)” (House Report Page 262)
6. **[REP. CUELLAR SECURED]** *Report Language:* “\$382,626,000 for Program for Migrant Education” (Increase of \$7,000,000 above FY21: \$375,626,000) (House Report Page 261)
7. **[REP. CUELLAR SECURED]** *Report Language:* “\$97,711,000 for National Farmworkers Jobs Program” (Increase of \$2,815,000 more than FY21: \$94,896,000) (House Report Page 15)
8. **[REP. CUELLAR SECURED]** *Report Language:* “\$1,297,761,000 for Federal TRIO Programs” (Increase of \$200,761,000 from FY21: \$1,097,000,000)” (House Report Page 297)
9. **[REP. CUELLAR SECURED]** *Report Language:* “Alcee L. Hastings Program for Advanced Cancer Screening in Underserved Communities – The Committee is extremely concerned about the disparity in cancer screening – and corresponding higher level of cancer incidence and adverse outcomes – in medically underserved communities. Several studies have demonstrated that this problem has only been made worse by the pandemic. The Committee includes \$25,000,000 to fund Health Centers to increase access and address barriers to cancer screening, including patient education, case management, outreach, and other enabling services. Grantees must partner and coordinate closely with NCI-designated cancer centers to deploy cancer-center trained and supervised outreach specialist and navigators to improve cancer screening and referrals among vulnerable populations in their catchment areas.” (House Report Page 46).
10. **[REP. CUELLAR SECURED]** *Report Language:* “\$90,000,000 for Rural Health Outreach” (Increase of \$7,500,000 from FY21: \$82,500,000) (House Report Page 66)
11. **[REP. CUELLAR SECURED]** *Report Language:* “Further, the Committee urges the Secretary to build upon the framework established by Healthy Border 2020 for border region public health goals and the actions needed to improve the health of U.S. and Mexico border residents, and to commence work on Healthy Border 2030 as part of the Department’s Healthy People 2030 initiative with a focus on addressing health disparities and to help border communities become more resilient to public health threats.” (House Report page 240)

### *Previous Legislation*

#### **Rep. Cuellar is the Lead Democratic Sponsor of the *Farm and Agricultural Worker Safety Education Act (FAWSEA)*.**

- Legislation would give non-profits, cooperative extension services, land-grant universities, state/local governments, processors/handlers, and farm families the resources they need to develop best practices and training materials to help farm and agricultural workers respond to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

#### **Rep. Cuellar cosponsored *The Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2019*.**

- Amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for terms and conditions for nonimmigrant workers performing agricultural labor or services.

- The bill makes various changes to the H-2A program:
  - modifying the method for calculating and adjusting the H-2A worker minimum wage;
  - specifying how an employer may satisfy requirements that it attempted to recruit U.S. workers;
  - requiring H-2A employers to guarantee certain minimum work hours; and
  - making the program available for year-round agricultural work and reserving a visa allocation for the dairy industry.

**FY21 Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations**

**Rep. Cuellar helped secure \$10,748,000,000 for Head Start Programs, HHS Children and Families Services Programs.**

- Included an additional \$10,000,000 supplement for the Migrant and Seasonal Head Start (MSHS) programs to give flexibility for the program to address needs for quality improvement.

**Rep. Cuellar helped secure \$378,501,000 for the State Agency Program for Migrant Education.**

- This program supports special educational and related services for children of migrant agricultural workers and fishermen.
- These funds are critical to families who make their living in agriculture and whose children should not be penalized in any manner due to frequent relocations.

**Rep. Cuellar helped secure \$46,123,000 for High School Equivalency Program (HEP) and the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP).**

- These programs make grants to colleges, universities and non-profit organizations to support educational programs designated for students who are engaged in migrant and other seasonal farm work.

**Rep. Cuellar helped secure \$95,896,000 for National Farmworkers Jobs Program.**

- The NFJP provides job training, employment assistance, and other supportive services to migrant and seasonal farmworkers and their dependents with the goal of helping farmworkers secure full-time employment.

**FY20 Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations**

**Rep. Cuellar helped secure \$11,250,000,000 for Head Start Programs, Children and Families Services Programs, Department of Health and Human Services.**

- Within the Office of Head Start, Migrant and Seasonal Head Start (MSHS) is responsible for Head Start programs that specifically serve the children and families of migrant and seasonal farmworkers.

**Rep. Cuellar helped secure \$374,751,000 for the State Agency Program for Migrant Education.**

- This program supports special educational and related services for children of migrant agricultural workers and fishermen.
- These funds are critical to families who make their living in agriculture and whose children should not be penalized in any manner due to frequent relocations.

**Rep. Cuellar helped secure \$45,623,000 for High School Equivalency Program (HEP) and the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP).**

- These programs make grants to colleges, universities and non-profit organizations to support educational programs designated for students who are engaged in migrant and other seasonal farm work.

**Rep. Cuellar helped secure \$91,896,000 for National Farmworkers Jobs Program.**

- The NFJP provides job training, employment assistance, and other supportive services to migrant and seasonal farmworkers and their dependents with the goal of helping farmworkers secure full-time employment.

**FY20 Homeland Security Appropriations**

**Rep. Cuellar helped secure \$2,000,000 for rescue beacons and to help protect migrants who are traveling on foot through dangerous terrain.**

- Included language directing CBP continue its policies and activities that help protect people who travel on foot through dangerous terrain.
- Included language directing CBP to increase efforts to improve migrant safety, including through the placement and maintenance of additional rescue beacons.
- Included language prohibiting CBP personnel from engaging in any activity that could damage water and food caches.

**FY19 - FY17 Interior and Environment Appropriations**

**Rep. Cuellar secured language directing the EPA and USDA to establish Agricultural Worker Protection Standards.**

- Standards to address migrant farm workers, children who work on farms, and pesticide handlers.
- Directed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to engage the U.S. Department of Agriculture, farmers, farm workers, industry and other interested organizations, as it implemented these standards.