

**Congressman Henry Cuellar's Fiscal Year 2020 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs,  
and Related Agencies Appropriations Wins**

1. *SEC. 612. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds appropriated in this or any other Act for a military construction project, as defined by section 2801 of title 10, United States Code, for any of fiscal years 2015 through 2019 or for fiscal year 2020 may be obligated, expended, or used to design, construct, or carry out a project to construct a wall, barrier, fence, or road along the Southern border of the United States or a road to provide access to a wall, barrier, or fence constructed along the Southern border of the United States.*

*Diversion of Military Construction Funds for a Border Wall.--- On February 15, 2019, President Trump declared a National Emergency to use section 2808 of title 10, United States code to bypass congressional intent and divert valuable military construction funding from previously approved national security projects to un a border wall. Congress chose not to fun this wall in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019 (P.L. 116-6). The Committee notes there is bipartisan opposition to the action taken by the President, as both the House and the Senate voted to disapprove the President's emergency declaration. Despite bipartisan congressional opposition, the fiscal year 2020 budget request for military construction included \$7,200,000,000 to restore funding (up to (\$3,600,000,000) that would be diverted for the wall as well as provide the next installment of wall funding (\$3,600,000,000). The committee recommendation does not provide these requested funds. Also, the accompanying bill includes language that protects previously appropriated projects, as well as fiscal year 2020 projects included in this bill from being used as a source for wall funding. The Committee believes that Congress must assert is role as a co-equal branch of the Federal government and insist upon the regular appropriation of funds---finds this committee has previously appropriated for disaster recovery, flood protection, and military base construction projects to maintain and improve military readiness. The committee believes that military construction dollars should be used only for the purpose they are provided, which is to support DOD's mission, service members, and their families.*