

Rep. Henry Cuellar Supports Law Enforcement & Public Safety

Providing Additional Resources to Help Protect Communities

Active / Passed Legislation

Rep. Cuellar is Lead Sponsor of the *Jaime Zapata and Victor Avila Federal Law Enforcement Protection Act* {Senate Companion Bill Passed Senate}

- Ensures that individuals who have killed or attempted to kill U.S. federal officers and employees serving abroad can be brought to justice and prosecuted in the United States.
- Specifically, it would clarify that federal officers and employees serving overseas are protected, and that U.S. courts may try their attackers in a U.S. court of law.

Rep. Cuellar was cosponsor of the *Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act of 2019*.

- Provides basic collective bargaining rights for police officers, fire fighters and EMS personnel.
- Provides employers and their workers with a framework to define benefits and solve disputes is necessary to ensure a productive workforce and a safe working environment.

Rep. Cuellar is a cosponsor of the *Public Servants Protection and Fairness Act of 2021*.

- Fixes the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) by introducing a new proportional formula, provides meaningful WEP relief to current retirees, includes a benefit guarantee so that no current or future retirees can be worse off as a result of the bill.
- Ensures that public servants across the nation can retire with the security and dignity they deserve.

Rep. Cuellar was cosponsor of the *Expanding Health Care Options for Early Retirees Act*.

- Allows retired first responders to buy into Medicare beginning at age 50.
- Provides an option for law enforcement officers, firefighters, and EMTs who are separated from service due to retirement or disability to buy into Medicare.

FY 2022 Homeland Security Appropriations

Rep. Cuellar secured

- \$610,000,000 for the State Homeland Security Grant Program of which \$90,000,000 for Operation Stonegarden.
- Report Language that directs DHS to enhance its focus on interdicting the outbound flow of smuggled firearms and illicit currency that fund and facilitate transnational criminal organizations.
- Report Language that encourages all state, local, tribal, and federal law enforcement agencies working in the southwest land border region to collaborate and operationally coordinate, when feasible, with Border Patrol.
- Report Language that encourages the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) to partner with community colleges to develop pre-academy and other law enforcement training programs, including along the southwest border where it is particularly important to improve the Department's hiring pipeline for law enforcement positions.
- Report Language that supports the establishment of FLETC's Human Trafficking Awareness Training and encourages FLETC to continue increasing opportunities for this training for federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement officers and agents.
- \$8,000,000 to continue Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency's (CISA) efforts of defending soft targets and crowded places.

*FY 2022 Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations***Rep. Cuellar secured**

- \$11,000,000 for the Office of Justice Programs (OJP), POLICE Act.
- \$33,000,000 for the Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants.
- \$450,881,000 for Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Grant Program.
- \$684,469,000 for the Byrne JAG Program.
- \$13,000,000 for the Violence Against Law Enforcement Officers and Ensuring Officer Resilience and Survivability (VALOR) Initiative.
- \$3,045,469,000 for the State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance.
- \$2,600,000,000 for the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), Crime Victims Fund (CVF).
- \$140,000,000 for the STOP School Violence Act Grant Program.
- \$35,000,000 for Community Policing Development (CPD).
- \$10,000,000 for Training Program to improve responses to people with mental illness.
- \$100,000,000 for the National Instant Criminal Background Check Systems (NICS) Initiative.
- Report Language that supports efforts by ATF to increase the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) presence on the Southwest border, including an increase to Crime Gun Intelligence Centers allotted to Southwest border field offices and an upcoming deployment of ATF's Mobile Command Center to the region and supports the ATF's Firearms Trafficking Task Forces that are working to combat the illegal flow of firearms into Mexico and encourages ATF to continue its work with intergovernmental partners, including DHS, toward these efforts and encourages colocation with law enforcement partners where feasible. (House Report Page 81)

*FY 2021 Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations***Rep. Cuellar has secured over \$2.7 billion in funding for Local Law Enforcement resources.**

- \$386,000,000 for Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Grant Program;
- \$484,000,000 for Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program;
- \$13,000,000 for Violence Against Law Enforcement Officers and Ensuring Officer Resilience and Survivability (VALOR) Grant Program; and
- \$1,914,000,000 for State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Programs.

*Impact on TX-28***Rep. Cuellar has delivered \$5,869,266 in Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Grant Program funds for the Laredo Police Department to hire 34 additional officers since 2010.**

- \$1,500,000 through COPS Universal Hiring Program for 12 positions, 2018; and
- \$4,369,266 through COPS Universal Hiring Program for 22 positions, 2010.

These grants ensure that the Laredo Police Department have adequate men on the ground while staffing growing divisions, like Community Services and the Narcotics Divisions.

Rep. Cuellar has secured \$1,362,467 in Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program funding for the Laredo Police Department since 2006.

2006: \$80,977.00; 2008: \$40,343; 2009: \$602,748; 2010: \$142,603; 2011: \$119,881.00; 2015: \$79,329; 2016: \$81,341; 2017: \$76,374; 2018: \$72,748; 2019: \$66,123.

These funds have helped the Laredo Police Department enhance their communications and coordination capabilities, among other initiatives.