

HENRY CUELLAR, PH.D.
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

September 30, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Chairwoman
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Chairwoman Lowey:

As you continue your work on the next COVID-19 Emergency Response Relief Package, I ask that you consider the following bill language request:

“SEC. _____. (a) The Secretary of Homeland Security shall establish and implement a local community-based program to lift COVID-19 travel restrictions at international Land Ports of Entry. The Secretary shall:

- (1) Consult with local community leaders and their medical personnel, along with the Centers for Disease Control, to determine criteria necessary to lift COVID-19 travel restrictions within border community jurisdictions that accommodate international Land Ports of Entry; and
- (2) Lift COVID-19 related travel restrictions for non-essential travelers and safely resume all cross-border operations at both the northern and southern U.S. borders, for those communities who meet the pre-determined criteria. Border communities will subsequently enforce their own jurisdictional COVID-19 public health orders.

(b) The Secretary of Homeland Security shall have the discretion to coordinate with local communities that request assistance conducting COVID-19 enhanced health screenings at or near international Land Ports of Entry.

(c) No later than 7 days after the enactment of this Act the Secretary shall report to the Committees on Appropriations in progress made to establish and implement this program.”

Thank you for considering this request, which has no provision to include additional appropriations, yet is critical to communities across both the northern and southern U.S. borders. If you have any questions, please contact my Legislative Director, Travis Knight, at (202) 225-1640 or Travis.Knight@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress
28th District of Texas