

- Chair/Chairwoman \_\_\_\_\_.
- First of all, thank you to the Chair and committee members for hosting this Member Hearing Day for non-committee members to express their Fiscal Year 2022 Appropriations priorities.
- I am Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia, representing Texas' 29<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, which includes Houston, South Houston, Pasadena, Jacinto City, and Galena Park.
- My district is about 78% Latino and includes many low-income households made up of children and seniors.
- Therefore, it is important for me, as their representative, to speak here today about the importance of equitable federal investments and dollars in my district.

- That is why I want to flag and advocate for several of my Community Project Requests, which would directly improve the quality of life of my constituents.
- I requested 10 community project requests this year across the Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee and the Transportation-HUD Subcommittee.
- But for the sake of time, I will only speak to a few here today.
- One of my requests is for a COVID Long Haul research project offered by the prominent Baylor College of Medicine.
- This important program would benefit my community by providing healthcare access and COVID research across a diverse patient population, including low income and minority populations.

- We have seen the impact on healthcare inequality during this pandemic, and this is an opportunity to correct those injustices.
- Also related to healthcare, is a request for flood mitigation structural improvements to the El Centro de Corazon clinics in my district.
- As you can imagine, flooding and heavy rainfall is a huge problem in Houston.
- It is important this clinic get the proper structural updates to keep water out, and keep their doors open to patients in the community during a disaster
- I also requested funds for a local partnership, which provides physical and mental health services for the youth in one of my local high schools.

- The project would be a partnership between MacArthur High School, a part of the Aldine Independent School District, and the HOPE Clinic.
- This mental health clinic would be available to eligible adults as well in a community faces inequity of healthcare resources
- I also want to quickly note a couple of requests for some of my smaller cities.
- The following requests went through the Transportation-HUD Subcommittee.
- On behalf of the city of Jacinto City, I requested funds to improve the city's water supply lines.

- This will help the local Fire Department deliver a stronger, more reliable water supply should a fire emergency arise.
- I made a similar request on behalf of the city of Galena Park.
- Galena Park sought assistance to improve their potable water lines, in particular.
- The availability of potable water became a huge issue after the winter storm that hit Texas earlier this year.
- The storm busted pipes and water lines across the state, causing major disruptions in water accessibility for households and cities alike.
- Access to drinking water is a basic human right and this request will ensure that for my constituents.

- From healthcare, to COVID recovery, to mental health and infrastructure—granting any and all of these requests would go a long way to help my local communities and address the injustices and inequities that have for too long plagued communities of color
- I want to say thank you for consideration of these requests, as each are very important, as are the remaining community projects I was not able to mention here today.
- I sincerely appreciate the time and the hard work of the Committee as you consider Member priorities while drafting the FY22 Appropriations bills.

- I am happy to answer any questions you might have, and I yield any remaining time.