

**Testimony of Raul Ruiz, M.D., M.P.P., M.P.H. (CA-36)**

**Chairman, Congressional Hispanic Caucus**

**FY 22 Member Day Hearing**

**U.S. House of Representatives**

**Committee on Appropriations**

**June 07, 2021**

Good morning Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger. Thank you for the opportunity to testify before the Appropriations Committee on Member Day. I am here as Chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus to discuss critical matters of importance to the Hispanic community.

Our Caucus has several members in the Appropriations committee, including Congressmen Pete Aguilar, Adriano Espaillat, and Henry Cuellar and Congresswomen Lucille Roybal-Allard and Norma Torres. Following a strong methodology, we have worked to compile a list of appropriations needs. This effort is the result of the collaborative work among CHC Members and staff, Appropriations Subcommittee staff, and stakeholders such as UnidosUS, NALEO, National Immigration Law Center, American Immigration Lawyers Associations, and United We Dream. We have identified top 3 appropriations priorities in each subcommittee—many of which have a CHC member as a sponsor. Today, I am here to address the priorities that the CHC supports collaboratively.

### **Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies**

**Program:** DOL Wage and House Division, **Amount:** \$298,000,000

**Program:** Advisory Committee on Minority Health (ACMH), **Report Language** addressing physician shortage in underserved communities.

**Program:** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, **Report language** on vaccine outreach with community health workers.

**Program:** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, **Report Language** on coronavirus vaccine availability in immigrant detention facilities across the nation.

**Program:** Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), **Report Language** on humanitarian response teams.

### **Subcommittee on Legislative Branch**

**Program:** House of Representatives Office of Diversity and Inclusion, **Amount:** Total funding of \$3,000,000, **Report Language** on allowing DACA holders to receive payment for work in Congress.

### **Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, Related Agencies**

**Program:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, **Amount:** \$6,600,000,000

### **Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies**

**Program:** Lifeline Program, **Amount:** Highest possible funding

**Program:** Emergency Benefit Broadband Program, **Amount:** Total funding of \$24,000,000,000

**Program:** Pro-Bono Legal Representation during Removal Proceedings, **Amount:** \$200,000,000

**Program:** Office of Policy, Office of Legal Access Programs, **Amount:** Total funding of \$50,000,000

**Program:** National Science Foundation, Hispanic Serving Institutions Undergraduate Program,

**Amount:** Total funding of \$55,000,000

#### **Subcommittee on Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies**

**Program:** Public and Indian Housing, **Report Language** in support of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development improving natural disaster relief for Puerto Rico.

#### **Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies**

**Program:** National Endowment of the Arts, **Report Language on** reporting requirements on diversity of agency's decision-makers and the programing hat receives funding.

**Program:** National Endowment of the Humanities, **Report Language:** reporting requirements on diversity of agency's decision-makers and the programing hat receives funding.

#### **Subcommittee on Homeland Security**

**Program:** U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, **Report Language** on authorizing a spectrum of alternatives to detention, including release on parole or recognizance.

**Program:** Office of the Inspector General, **Amount:** Total funding of \$250,000,000

**Program:** U.S. Customs and Border Protection, **Report Language** on standards of health, nutrition, shelter, water, and hygiene for immigrants detained in CBP custody.

**Program:** U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, **Report Language** on restricting funds in this bill to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to be used to administer an immigration and

naturalization benefits program that eliminates any category of eligibility for fee waivers set forth in 8 CFR § 103.7(c)(3-5) as it existed on January 1, 2020.

**Program:** U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Naturalization Through Military Service, Citizenship for Military Family Members, **Report Language on** directing U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to process military naturalization applications within six months, as previously required by the Military Personnel Citizenship Process Act, and to establish a military naturalization promotion program, in conjunction with the Department of Defense, to ensure all military service members and their families learn about and consider their eligibility to apply for naturalization before the military service member's separation from the military.

We appreciate the consideration to these important Caucus priorities. While we have submitted more requests, we will include them in the statement for the record given the time constraints on the Member testimony.