

L-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee Statement for the Record -Nanette Diaz Barragan (CA-44)

Thank you, Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole, for the opportunity to discuss some of my priorities before the Subcommittee.

First, I want to highlight two of my top programmatic requests under your jurisdiction: 1) CDC Social Determinants of Health Program funding; 2) CDC Multiple Myeloma Cancer Report Language.

Second, I will highlight two of my top community funded projects within your subcommittee's jurisdiction: 1) expanding a new satellite community health clinic in San Pedro with the Harbor Community Health Centers; 2) fund East Los Angeles College (ELAC) South Gate Campus to develop a comprehensive training Hub with a focus on careers in health.

Thereafter, I will reiterate additional programmatic requests and community projects also submitted to your subcommittee that would make a huge positive impact in our communities and California's 44<sup>th</sup> Congressional District.

**Programmatic Requests**

**1. CDC Social Determinants of Health Program.**

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted how a community's resources directly impact the health of its residents. Social factors like unsafe or unstable housing, food insecurity, and lack of transportation, put some populations at higher risk during this public health emergency. Addressing these social determinants of health is crucial to reducing health disparities not only during the current crisis, but as we work to strengthen our public health infrastructure into the future. I respectfully request that the Social Determinants of Health Program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (NCCDPHP) be properly

funded at \$153 million, which is in line with President Biden's budget, and in line with the public health approach outlined in the Improving Social Determinants of Health Act (H.R. 379).

2. **CDC Multiple Myeloma Report Language.**

Multiple myeloma is a cancer that forms in a type of white blood cell and accumulates in the bone marrow. It is a cancer that has deeply impacted my family, and one that disproportionately impacts communities of color. I wish for the following report language to be included in the final bill: "The Committee expresses concern surrounding the burden of multiple myeloma on patients and their caregivers. In 2021, it is estimated that there will be 34,920 new cases of myeloma and an estimated 12,410 people will die of this disease. Unfortunately, large socioeconomic, geographic, and racial disparities exist in myeloma treatment which can greatly impact patient outcomes. Among these disparities include delayed diagnoses, stem cell utilization rates, limited access to novel therapeutics and access to clinical trials. For example, multiple myeloma is one of the malignancies with the greatest disparity in incidence and prevalence between African Americans and white Americans. African Americans account for 20 percent of patients currently with myeloma, but by 2034, it is estimated that African Americans will make up roughly 24 percent of the newly diagnosed multiple myeloma population. The Committee encourages CDC to increase outreach and education of myeloma among high-risk individuals especially among African Americans, Hispanics, and other communities of color."

## **Community Funded Projects**

### **1. San Pedro Harbor Community Health Centers Clinic at Linc Housing Project.**

I respectfully request \$1,000,000 for the San Pedro Harbor Community Health Centers Clinic at Linc Housing Project. This project would enable Harbor Community Health Centers (HCHC) to develop a health clinic at a future affordable housing site for low- and moderate-income families. The clinic would provide greater access to healthcare for populations who are already burdened with disproportionate risks for asthma, obesity and diabetes, as well as poor access to healthcare because of housing instability.

### **2. East Los Angeles College (ELAC) South Gate Campus Southeast Training Hub in Healthcare Careers.**

I respectfully request \$920,000 for East Los Angeles College (ELAC) South Gate Campus Southeast Training Hub in Healthcare Careers located at 2340 Firestone Blvd, South Gate, CA 90280. The East Los Angeles College (ELAC) South Gate Campus aims to develop a comprehensive training Hub with a focus on careers in health. The Hub will assist students with obtaining job skills to prepare them for employment in the healthcare industry and will also implement a community health and wellness campaign. Funding for this project would allow ELAC to provide free to low-cost training for students pursuing careers in nursing, physical therapy, and other medical professions, at the college's satellite campus in South Gate, California.

## **Additional Programmatic/Language and Community Development Project Requests**

**CDC National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program:** For 30 years, the CDC's National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program has provided lifesaving breast and cervical cancer screening and diagnostic services to low-income, uninsured, and

underinsured women. Unfortunately, at current funding levels the program serves fewer than 15 percent of the estimated number of eligible women for breast cancer screening services, and less than 7 percent of eligible women for cervical cancer screening. The program is currently funded at approximately \$197 million even though it is authorized to be funded at \$275 million. I respectfully request that you fully fund this program at \$275 million.

**National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities Research Endowment**

**Program:** In order to address the unacceptable minority health disparities in this country, I respectfully request \$100 million to reinvigorate the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD)'s Research Endowment Program. The goals of the program include: promoting minority health and health disparities research capacity and infrastructure; increasing the diversity and strength of the scientific workforce; and enhancing the recruitment and retention of individuals from health disparity populations that are underrepresented in the scientific workforce. These funds will allow schools across the country to provide the resources necessary to determine how we can end these disparities once and for all.

**Skin Cancer Communities of Color Report Language:** In order to address the disparities that communities of color face regarding skin cancer, I request that the committee includes the following report language: "Research has shown that skin cancer in patients with skin of color is often diagnosed in its later stages, making treatment more difficult and decreasing the chances for survival. The Committee directs the National Cancer Institute (NCI) to report to the Congress, no later than one year after the date of enactment, regarding a review of the research that assesses factors contributing to later diagnoses of skin cancer among patients with skin of color and makes recommendations regarding measures to raise awareness of risk factors for skin

cancer and to encourage activities that promote prevention and early detection of skin cancers among patients with skin of color and other underserved populations.”

**Boys & Girls Clubs of the Los Angeles Harbor - Wilmington College Bound Program**

I respectfully request \$500,000 for the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Los Angeles Harbor (BGCLAH) - Wilmington College Bound Program located in Wilmington, California. This project would directly assist at least 1,000 high school students in the Los Angeles Harbor region with overcoming the socioeconomic barriers that interfere with their pursuit of attending college. At BGCLAH, students from disadvantaged backgrounds will receive mentorship and one-on-one case management, while also participating in workshops, college tours, and other activities to aid their academic achievement. While educational attainment is very low in Wilmington- 43 percent of all adults over the age of 25 do not have a high school diploma and only 8 percent of high school graduates receive any type of higher education degree- the College Bound Program has produced a 98 percent graduation rate of high school student participants, with 90 percent advancing to higher education immediately after high school.

**Project Name: BANJ Health Center Lynwood – Compton Uninsured Patient Care**

**Program.** I respectfully request \$50,000 for the BANJ Health Center Lynwood – Compton Uninsured Patient Care Program. This project will expand the reach of BANJ Health Center’s Uninsured Patient Care Program to nearly a thousand uninsured residents. The requested funding would allow direct services to be provided to these new patients over a 12-month period. The primary goal of this program is to address the paramount health needs of underserved community members through two sites, located in Compton and Lynwood, California. Services provided through this program include pediatric care, as well as treatment for high blood pressure, diabetes, and cardiovascular conditions.