

Labor, HHS, Education Subcommittee Remarks
for Congresswoman Sylvia R. Garcia (TX-29)

Good morning, everyone. Thank you Chairwoman, Ranking Member, and committee members, for having me here today to share my Fiscal Year 2023 Appropriations priorities for the Labor, Health and Human Services Subcommittee. Madam Chairwoman, earlier this year, the 2020 Census Community Survey revealed that my district has the highest uninsured rate in the nation. This is incredibly alarming and that's why many of my appropriations requests this year revolved around healthcare and creating jobs where employees can attain high-quality health insurance. I would like to flag several of my community projects requests for the committee today. First, El Centro de Corazon, a federally qualified healthcare center (FQHC) in my district, is requesting \$5M in funding for construction and equipment costs to build a 10,000 square foot health care facility. This facility will provide women and children with accessible and affordable health care services.

The Women's Health department of the facility will consist of 4 patient exam rooms, and 2 procedure rooms. Services will include prenatal care, contraceptive management, ultrasounds, and well woman exams. Madam Chair, as you are well aware, women's healthcare in Texas is under attack. So this project will be a step in the right direction to protect and maintain women's healthcare in my district.

Additionally, I requested nearly \$4 million in community project dollars for an Access2Health SmartPods project. This community project seeks to address the healthcare disparity gap in multiple locations across my district, through the deployment of innovative, award-winning, Access2Health SmartPods developed by Baylor College of Medicine. Ten pods, half of which are equipped to provide primary care, and half of which are tailored to provide mental health care, will be deployed across 4 popular community centers and 1 county park. These self-contained pods

cost effectively provide the full range of primary care and mental health services to areas that lack healthcare access.

Finally Madam Chair, I will flag a project for one of my school districts, Pasadena ISD called the High School to High Wage Project. This project will help Pasadena ISD ensure their students have access to the proper and up-to-date equipment, resources, and training so that they are prepared to enter the workforce and fill employment gaps in high demand, high wage occupations. These are not just any jobs. These are jobs vital to the economic and socio-economic success of the Texas 29th Congressional District and greater Houston area. Statewide and regional data indicates that jobs in the healthcare industry, trades, and STEM-related fields are being impacted the most by the shortage of qualified employees. And Pasadena ISD is addressing that. The school district working closely with business and industry partners to ensure they are preparing their graduates to fill these high-

wage, high-demand positions. Getting our students opportunities into high paying, high quality jobs, means they are more likely to attain high-quality health insurance as well.

I am happy to answer any questions you may have. Thank you again, and I yield back.