

Budget Committee Member Hearing Day

Remarks

Congresswoman Sylvia R. Garcia, TX-29

Good morning, everyone. Thank you Chairman Yarmuth, Ranking Member Smith and committee members, for having me here today to share my priorities for the FY23 Budget. I am proud to represent Texas' 29th Congressional District, which includes Houston, South Houston, Pasadena, Jacinto City, and Galena Park. My district is 77% Latino, and therefore adequate government funding is critical to support communities in my district and help my constituents.

I thank President Biden and your leadership, Chairman Yarmuth, in delivering a responsible, caring budget that intends to serve all Americans and robustly funds critical anti-poverty programs.

- **I want to discuss a portion of the President's Budget, under the Department of Transportation, which I am particularly pleased with, and I urge your consideration of--the Consolidated Railroad Infrastructure and Safety Improvements Grants Program (CRISI). This program supports a wide range of freight and intercity passenger rail projects that furthers the Department of Transportations' safety, economic, equity, and climate goals. Specifically, the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements Grants are intended to improve the safety, efficiency, and reliability of passenger and freight rail systems. CRISI can also promote the values of the Justice40 initiative, and as such, the FY 2023 President's Budget proposes to dedicate at least \$200 million in CRISI funds to rail line relocations and other projects to mitigate the detrimental safety and quality of life effects rail**

transportation can have on underserved or disadvantaged communities. I am here today to request members of the budget committee do what it can to maintain the strong funding levels championed by the President for this critical program. Furthermore, I want to flag a bill which I have championed since last Congress, which encourages a \$200 million investment in institutions of higher education which provide high quality training for careers in maritime education, HR 987. Educating the next generation of maritime workers is a huge priority of mine, and this is a bipartisan effort, which I hope to see reflected as we work on the budget this year.

- But broadly speaking Mr. Chairman, we need to focus on helping Americans recover from the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, through workforce training, investments in research and**

development in up-and-coming industries and STEM. I would also encourage us to look at budget priorities that advance the President's Build Back Better agenda as much as we can. These include expanding the Child Tax Credit, free childcare and preschool, and clean energy tax credits.

Let's build upon the great work, President Biden, appropriators, and Chairman Yarmuth have already worked on. Thank you for your consideration and I yield back.