

The Honorable Sylvia R. Garcia (TX-29)
Remarks for the Record
HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
Full Committee Oversight Hearing– April 28, 2022

“Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for convening this oversight hearing on the Department of Homeland Security.

When hate crimes and acts of domestic terrorism are at an all-time high, we must ensure that the law enforcement entities in charge of keeping our communities safe are rightfully and legitimately complying with their mission. The Department of Homeland Security has broad powers, perhaps too wide, and broad executive authority often leads to abuse of power and arbitrariness.

Since its inception, the Department of Homeland Security has been weaponized against immigrant communities. For four years, the highest office in the land indulged in hateful rhetoric toward immigrant communities portraying Latinos as “rapists” and “criminals.” Separating children from their parents and encouraging general contempt for Latinos. During President Biden’s Administration, the Department has made significant strides in the right direction. But there is still much, much work to be done.

As a Latina, I feel tremendous relief that for the first time in its history, the DHS is being led by a Latino who knows by own experience the human impact of the decisions he takes.

Mr. Secretary, bienvenido. Gracias por estar aquí.”