STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD

CONGRESSWOMAN DELIA C. RAMIREZ

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING: Exploring the Use of Data-Driven Methods and Community Collaboration to Reduce Veteran Homelessness

HEARING DATE: June 27, 2024

Thank you Chairman and Ranking member for holding this hearing today. It has been well over a year since I first came to Congress and as a member of this committee, a recurring conversation that we've had is how to best support our veterans experiencing homelessness, prevent veterans from falling into homelessness, and eventually end veteran homelessness altogether. Let me be clear–the urgency of this matter cannot be understated. Our veterans experiencing homelessness need our help NOW.

This is why I am a proud co-sponsor of the End Veteran Homelessness Act of 2024, which I'm so glad that we passed out of this subcommittee today. This legislation will expand eligibility for HUD-VASH vouchers and create a pathway for more veterans at risk of experiencing homelessness to obtain permanent housing. I look forward to moving this bill at the Full Committee level and with our partners over on the Financial Services Committee so we can ensure every veteran can access the housing they need.

I want to pivot to the topic of our hearing today. As a former director of a shelter and transitional housing program, I know what it takes to serve a diverse community of people experiencing homelessness, including veterans. Part of serving our veterans at risk or experiencing homelessness is being equipped with quality data that can help inform our policy decisions, so that our legislation is intentional and addresses root causes of the problem. Reviewing and providing oversight of the data that is available to us including, the Point In Time Count and the VA's data, is critical in how we measure the scale of the problem and the needs of our veterans. Lastly, how we use this data effectively to drive our decision making is key. Quality data that can help steer policy is how we end veteran homelessness.