

CONGRESSWOMAN SHEILA JACKSON LEE (TX-18)

STATEMENT BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND RELATED AGENCIES

VIRTUAL MEMBER DAY HEARING ON LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR FY 2022



**TUESDAY, MAY 18, 2021
10:00 A.M.
CISCO WEBEX**

Chairwoman DeLauro, Ranking Member Cole and distinguished Members of the Subcommittee:

- As a senior member of the Committees on the Judiciary and on Homeland Security, let me offer my appreciation and thanks to Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole for the difficult work and choices that must be made to produce a truly bipartisan LHHS spending bill, and for their commitment to producing a bill that fairly reflects the interests and priorities of the American people.
- Madam Chair, I understand that my entire statement will be made part of the record so I will keep my remarks brief. In the few minutes allotted **I wish to highlight four areas which warrant the Committee's continuing attention and support:**
 1. Educational Opportunity;
 2. Health Research and Security;
 3. Economic Opportunity and Workforce Safety; and
 4. Other Important Programs

I. EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

I support \$395 million for Strengthening Historically Black Colleges and Universities and PBIs

- These funds provide the cornerstone of federal support for HBCUs and PBIs.

I support robust funding for Child Care and Development Block Grant

- Access to high quality and affordable child care empowers families to work but recent funding supports only one in six of the children eligible for this assistance.

I support the Federal TRIO Programs

- TRIO serves students from low-income families in which neither parent earned a college degree. TRIO serves about 760,000 students in every state and territory, including veterans and disabled students.

I support \$12.5 billion for Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

- When IDEA passed, the federal government pledged to pay 40 percent of the Average Per Pupil Expenditure in IDEA Part B grants to states. However, funding has always fallen short of this commitment and exacerbates the challenges facing states and local school districts.

I support \$27 million for the Minority Centers of Excellence

- The Centers of Excellence provides support for health professions schools that prioritize educating and training enhancement to increase opportunities for underrepresented minorities to enter and successfully complete a health professions education.

I support robust funding for Magnet Schools Assistance Program (MASP)

- The Magnet Schools Assistance Program (MSAP) provides grants to local school districts to establish, expand, and improve public magnet schools. It is the only federal education grant designed specifically to reduce racial and socioeconomic segregation, as well as promote educational equity and diversity in the classroom.

I support \$42 million for the Historically Black College and University (HBCU) Capital Financing Program

- Funds provide a low-cost alternative to traditional sources of capital financing for HBCUs seeking to improve capital projects (e.g. academic and residential facilities on their campuses). An increase in loan subsidies by \$4.5 million would support \$85 million in new loans to approximately 2-8 additional institutions for a total annual loan volume of \$390 million.

I support \$11.5 billion for Head Start

- Head Start is the most successful, longest running, national school readiness program in the United States. It provides comprehensive education, health, nutrition, and parent involvement services to low income children and their families. All evidence supports the importance of early cognitive development. Children in the program score higher on school readiness measures and social competence.

II. HEALTH RESEARCH AND SECURITY

I support \$5.1 billion for the Community Health Centers (CHCs)

- Funding the Health Center program at \$5.25 billion strengthens the ability of health centers to provide integrated, high-quality primary care.

I support \$40 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH)

- The National Institutes of Health (NIH) are our nation's preeminent medical research centers and represent our best hope for finding cures, improving treatments, and gaining a better understanding of the diseases and conditions that affect millions of Americans.

I support \$320 million for National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIH)

- NIMHD funds and supports scientific research aimed to improve minority health and eliminate health disparities by establishing the scientific basis for existing health disparities faced by racial/ethnic populations in the United States.

I support \$40 million to fully support the CDC Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention program

- Even small amounts of lead can cause serious health problems. The impact of lead poisoning ranges from reductions in cognitive function, developmental delays, behavior modification, learning disabilities, seizures, comas, and even death.

I support full funding for the Violence Against Women Health Initiative

- This program provides funding for states to develop a public health response to abuse by strengthening the health care system's identification, assessment, and response to victims and by educating health care providers.

I support strong funding for School-Based Health Centers (SBHCs)

- SBHCs provide access to health care that is highly beneficial, cost-effective, and convenient for nearly 2 million students nationwide. Usage of SBHCs improves health outcomes, while reducing health care costs, and has many documented academic benefits.

I support \$50 million for the Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program

- It is the only nationwide program exclusively focused on helping Veterans experiencing homelessness reintegrate into the workforce.

I support \$410 million for Family Planning

- Title X of the Public Health Service Act supports 4,200 health centers nationwide and provides what is often the only access to preventive care like cancer screenings and HIV testing, as well as family planning services, for the low-income and uninsured.

III. ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND THE WORKPLACE

I support \$2.0 billion for the Job Corps program

- For over 50 years, Job Corps has successfully educated and trained more than 2.7 million young adults for jobs in high demand industries and trades. Today, Job Corps' 126 campuses across all 50 states provide a safe living, learning and disciplined residential setting that allows at-risk youth to gain the employment and work skills that America's employers seek. Nearly 88% of graduates are employed, enlisted in the military or enrolled in higher education within six months of graduation.

I support robust funding for Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs

- These programs support the supply and distribution of qualified nurses to meet our nation's healthcare needs and provide support for institutions that educate nurses for practice in rural and medically underserved communities.

I support \$700 million for OSHA

- Daily, about 13,000 U.S. workers sustain on-the-job injuries requiring a medical consultation, 11 workers die from unintentional work injuries, and 145 workers die from work-related diseases, all at an estimated \$4.8 billion weekly cost to our economy. OSHA is the main federal agency charged with addressing these workplace health and safety issues.

IV. OTHER IMPORTANT PROGRAMS

I support \$25 million for the Services to Survivors of Torture program

- This funding supports treatment centers in 22 states and the District of Columbia that provide rehabilitative services to torture survivors.

I support \$400 million for the Implementation of Trafficking Victims Protection

- This funding for the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) is needed to implement the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 and serve foreign national victims; to provide shelters for child victims of human trafficking.

I support full funding for the Refugee and Entrant Assistance Funding.

This funding will help the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) assist states and local communities welcome and support refugees and other vulnerable populations on their path to self-sufficiency.

REQUESTED REPORT LANGUAGE:

- Finally, Madam Chair, I would request the Committee to include the following language in the report:

Anti-White Nationalist Domestic Terrorism Actions

“The Committee is cognizant of the vulnerabilities to the safety and security of persons, property, and interests working or located in the U.S. Capitol and its environs.

“The insurrection that occurred on January 6, 2021, when an incited mob of domestic terrorists, white nationalists and supremacists laid siege to the Capitol Building in order to disrupt a constitutionally mandated duty of the Congress is a dark stain on the nation’s history, and exacerbated by the fact that a large number of the marauders had previously taken oaths – as law enforcement officers, as members of the military, and as civil servants and contractors - to uphold and defend the Constitution, and to do so with true faith and allegiance.

“The U.S. Intelligence Community has assessed that domestic terrorism, particularly white supremacy and white nationalist organizations, is the greatest and most imminent threat to our nation and democratic form of government. The Committee applauds the service and sacrifice of the men and women who serve the American people in the civilian and military sectors of government.

“The Committee, however, cautions and directs the Secretary to exercise vigilance and take decisive action to identify, isolate, and remove from service individuals whose actions of January 6 2021 at the U.S. Capitol or whose connections, actions, or affiliations with white nationalist organizations pose a threat to the security of the United States.

“Actions the Secretary should take include undertaking an immediate review of a clearance when a security clearance holder is reported to have engaged in violent acts against individuals, property, or public spaces based on the security clearance holder’s association or sympathy with persons or organizations that advocate, threaten, or use force or violence, or any other illegal or unconstitutional means, in

an effort to prevent others from exercising their rights under the Constitution or laws of the United States or of any State, based on factors including, at a minimum, race, religion, national origin, or disability.”

CONCLUSION

- Madam Chair, I thank you and the Ranking Member for your leadership and for extending me this opportunity to share my major priorities with the Subcommittee.