

Congresswoman Sylvia R. Garcia (TX 29) Remarks

Good afternoon, everyone. Thank you Chairman, Ranking Member, and committee members, for having me here today to share my Fiscal Year 2023 Appropriations priorities for the Commerce, Justice, and Science Subcommittee on Appropriations. I am proud to represent Texas' 29th Congressional District, which includes Houston, South Houston, Pasadena, Jacinto City, and Galena Park. First, I am here today to speak in support of one of my community project requests, a project on behalf of the Houston Independent School District (HISD). This nearly \$2 million project will strengthen the Houston community's pipeline of students who are engaged in planetary sciences that leverages NASA, Johnson Space Center, the Lunar Planetary Institute (LPI), Museum of Natural Science and Rice University. These community institutions will partner with Houston ISD (HISD) to allow Kindergarten-12th grade students the opportunity to learn more about careers in STEM and Space from current undergraduate and graduate students. Graduate and undergraduate students will be trained on effective communication strategies and teaching pedagogies to prepare them to bring current research and hands-on activities into HISD classrooms. I would greatly appreciate the committee's consideration of this community project, as we seek to get more young talent, and in particular, young Latinos, on track for careers in space and STEM. Additionally, I want to flag for the committee a general, programmatic request that I co-led with my colleague, Rep. Scott Peters, requesting \$65 million in funding for the NASA Space Grant Program. Space Grant is a competitive, state-federal partnership that functions through consortia in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia. The program enables students to engage in outreach activities and research projects that prepare them for STEM careers. The Texas Space Grant Consortium (TSGC) is part of NASA's National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program.

In Texas, TSGC has competitively awarded more than \$2 million to more than 1000 students for undergraduate STEM Scholarships, STEM Educator Scholarships, and Graduate Fellowship. So, this program is incredibly important in developing the next generation of STEM researchers and leaders in Texas. I appreciate your consideration of both of these requests. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have. Thank you again, and I yield back.