



To: Interested Parties  
From: Daniel Garza, Senior Advisor, The LIBRE Initiative Action  
Re: Rep. Henry Cuellar is a bridge-builder who deserves re-election  
Date: February 14, 2020

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**The LIBRE Initiative Action today announces its endorsement of Representative Henry Cuellar (TX-28) in his primary election. LIBRE Action is dedicated to supporting candidates based on their active leadership roles on top policy priorities for improving the lives of all Americans. Below you will see the case for endorsing Rep. Henry Cuellar.**

Rep. Henry Cuellar has tended to the interests of South Texans well during his time in Congress.

But he has done more than serve his constituents. Cuellar has been a model of what an effective congressman should look like.

On issues ranging from immigration to trade to jobs and the economy, our congressman has been a consensus builder. He has sought out and found allies on both sides of the aisle to push real solutions to real problems.

He has done so at considerable political risk.

But he has accepted such risk as a cost of progress. And in so doing, Cuellar has proven again and again that he represents the best of the Rio Grande Valley.

He has sought a balanced solution to the challenges faced by our broken immigration system, backing a compassionate – and legislative – solution for Dreamers while working to ensure our border and communities are secure and safe.

But he went beyond even these solutions to ensure that progress is made on the ground by helping to enact [increased due process protections](#) for individuals and families detained at the border, seeking to expedite the legal timeline for asylum seekers while also establishing regional processing centers in high-traffic areas along the border.

Cuellar recognized that this was a question of fairness. “The only thing is that we want their day in court faster,” [he said](#).

Cuellar has also worked to ensure that all Americans, including immigrants, have a greater opportunity to succeed by supporting expanded trade and regulatory reforms that eliminate unnecessary barriers that stymie innovation.

Laredo is the [busiest border crossing](#) for U.S.-Mexican trade, with about 20,000 trucks and railcars crossing bridges spanning the Rio Grande each day. Only Los Angeles, with nearly 15 times the population, has a busier customs district.

Cuellar backed free-trade deals with Panama and Colombia and has stood fast against tariff increases, which he correctly [noted](#) “will only hurt America’s economy and security.”

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Unlike some, he has been consistent on the issue across administrations, and whether he was in the majority or the minority in the House. “At the very beginning,” [he said late last year](#), “I decided to define myself on certain issues – and trade was one of them.”

Throughout his career, Cuellar has sought to maximize opportunity for everyone in the Valley --and every American -- by creating diverse coalitions, and by seeking solutions to real-life challenges.

He has been a champion of prosperity through regulatory reform, fighting to ensure that small businesses compete on a level playing field and their employees can live their American Dream.

And he introduced a bipartisan occupational licensing reform [bill](#) that would give state governments the tools they need to ensure red tape is not creating unnecessary barriers for those seeking to enter the workforce. Onerous licensing requirements can cost thousands of dollars in fees and unnecessary educational expenses, meaning they fall hardest on those least able to afford them.

Now, Rep. Cuellar’s voting record isn’t perfectly in line with my personal beliefs, it’s hard to find a lawmaker that is. The way he conducts business, elevates the conversation on controversial issues, and the leadership he’s shown on policies that truly improve the lives of all Texans has earned my support in this race.

We need more Henry Cuellars in Washington – people willing to build consensus on difficult issues and do the legwork necessary to bring them to fruition.

As a voter in the 28<sup>th</sup> District, I encourage my neighbors to support Rep. Cuellar in the Democratic primary on March 3.

*Daniel Garza, a senior advisor to Libre Action, lives in Mission.*