



U.S. House of Representatives

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Gonzalez, Cuellar, Vela Sworn Into 116th Congress

Texas Congressmen Share Ambitions to Re-Open Government

WASHINGTON – Congressmen Vicente Gonzalez (TX-15), Henry Cuellar (TX-28), and Filemon Vela (TX-34) today issued the following statements, laying out their mission for the 116th Congress.

Congressman Gonzalez returns for his second term in the U.S. House of Representatives, ready to reopen the government and deliver for the great people of the 15th District of Texas. The district encompasses the growing suburban counties of Brooks, Duval, Guadalupe, Jim Hogg, Karnes, Live Oak and parts of Hidalgo and Wilson Counties. The congressman is a proud member of the House Financial Services Committee, Congressional Hispanic Caucus, the bipartisan Problem Solvers Caucus, Blue Dog Coalition, New Democrat Coalition, and Chairman of the Oil and Gas Caucus.

“In the 116th Congress, we will put an end to this dog and pony show and get the federal government back to work for the people,” **Congressman Gonzalez said.** “It is crucial that my fellow colleagues recognize the need to: pass a long-term appropriations package that funds effective border security strategies, and rejects funds for a border wall; lower prescription drug prices and protect senior citizens; find a consensus on free trade agreements that benefit economies across the U.S.; ensure that farm operators and ranchers are provided sufficient resources to thrive; and eliminate the partisan divide that

has dominated the past two years. This Congress, I promise to continue my fight to bring back deported veterans and improve benefit options for all former military service members. It will remain my priority to help local communities and federal agencies secure millions of dollars in federal funding for healthcare centers, law enforcement agencies, schools, universities, and agriculture. That is just a taste of what is to come, but rest assured, I came to work.”

“As Democrats head into a new majority in the House, my colleagues and I ready to hit the ground running— we are prepared to re-open government, enact full-year appropriations, and make sure that the federal government continues to stay open year after year,” **said Congressman Cuellar.** “I promise to continue working with my colleagues to enact policies our constituents sent us to Washington to fight for, including lowering healthcare and prescription drug costs, improving transportation infrastructure, increasing access to care and benefits for our troops and veterans, helping ranchers and farmers, providing access to higher education, promoting a vision of border security that does not include a wall, as well as building upon the success of NAFTA. Texan families need a strong voice in Washington. They deserve good jobs, affordable education and quality healthcare and I stand ready to get to work right away.”

“As the 116th Congress convenes, the new Democratic Majority is ready to get to work. Ending the Trump shutdown by fully opening the Federal government is the top priority. The hundreds of thousands of federal workers who were forced to go without pay over the holidays deserve better,” **Congressman Vela said.** “I look forward to working alongside Reps. Cuellar and Gonzalez as we fight for South Texas. Improving infrastructure, protecting agricultural programs, and fighting to prevent the President’s ineffective and wasteful border wall are among my highest priorities. I am proud to be one of South Texas’ voices in Washington, and I am ready for that voice to be heard.”