# REMARKS FOR CONGRESSMAN RUBÉN HINOJOSA
# FIELD HEARING, FLINT, MICHIGAN
# HELD BY REP. DALE KILDEE, CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

## "HIGH SCHOOL/COLLEGE DUAL ENROLLMENT PROGRAMS"
## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2009

I WANT TO THANK CHAIRMAN DALE KILDEE FOR HOLDING THIS FIELD HEARING AND FOR WELCOMING ME TO HIS CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT. WE HAVE WORKED TOGETHER ON MANY EDUCATION ISSUES IN WASHINGTON, DC, SO I AM DELIGHTED TO BE HERE TO LISTEN TO THE WITNESSES ON THE ISSUE OF EARLY COLLEGE AND DUAL CREDIT ENROLLMENT PROGRAMS.

I commend you for your selection of the New Chancellor, Ruth Peterson. . . . With roots in Texas, the Chancellor and I have already met & made friends

Thank you for ~~offering~~ hosting.

I ALSO WANTED TO BRIEFLY SHARE WHAT WE'VE DONE IN TEXAS ON THIS ISSUE. IN 2006, OUR STATE ENACTED LEGISLATION TO INCREASE "DUAL-ENROLLMENT-CREDIT PROGRAMS" IN OUR SCHOOL DISTRICTS. THE LEGISLATION REQUIRES EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT TO IMPLEMENT A PROGRAM UNDER WHICH STUDENTS MAY EARN AT LEAST 12 SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS OF COLLEGE CREDIT IN HIGH SCHOOL. I AM PLEASED, HOWEVER, THAT SOME OF OUR LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS ARE OFFERING MORE THAN 12 HOURS OF COLLEGE CREDIT.

IN THE LAST DECADE, TEXAS HAS SEEN PARTICIPATION RATES IN DUAL ENROLLMENT CREDIT PROGRAMS GROW SIGNIFICANTLY. IN 2000, THERE WERE 18,638 STUDENTS ENROLLED IN DUAL CREDIT PROGRAMS. IN 2006, THIS FIGURE CLIMBED TO 42,353. PARTICIPATION RATES FOR HISPANIC AND AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDENTS HAVE INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY DUE TO OUR EXPANSION OF "EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOLS" AND "DUAL-ENROLLMENT-PROGRAMS" IN OUR STATE.

AS MOST OF YOU KNOW, OUR NATION'S ECONOMY IS GOING THROUGH ~~AN ECONOMIC~~ the most severe financial CRISIS, UNLIKE ANYTHING WE HAVE SEEN SINCE THE GREAT DEPRESSION. THE COLLAPSE OF THE HOUSING MARKET, THE FALL OF OUR DOMESTIC AUTO INDUSTRY, PLUNGING STOCK MARKET PRICES AND RISING UNEMPLOYMENT HAVE CAUSED, NOT ONLY A GLOBAL ECONOMIC RECESSION, BUT HAVE CREATED HARDSHIP AND ANXIETY AS INDIVIDUAL FAMILIES STRUGGLE TO COPE WITH LOST JOBS AND LOST SAVINGS.

**IN TEXAS, WE HAVE FOUND THAT STUDENTS WHO TAKE DUAL CREDIT COURSES ARE MORE LIKELY TO ENROLL IN POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS AND GRADUATE.**

I am one of the founders of So. Tx. Community College 15 years ago. We ~~started~~ opened our doors with 800 ~~-~~ College students. In ~~the~~ Sept. 2009, we enrolled 23,000 students!!

**SOUTH TEXAS COLLEGE IN MCALLEN, TEXAS SERVES MY** Congressional **DISTRICT AND HAS PARTNERSHIPS WITH 19 SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND 42 HIGH SCHOOL SITES. THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS SERVED BY THE DUAL ENROLLMENT PROGRAM AT SOUTH TEXAS COLLEGE HAS GROWN FROM 425 IN 1999 TO 8,400 THIS YEAR.**

High School students

**EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOLS AND DUAL ENROLLMENT PROGRAMS HAVE SERVED AS A STRATEGY FOR DROPOUT RECOVERY IN MY CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT. I WOULD LIKE TO HIGHLIGHT THE IMPRESSIVE WORK OF PHARR-SAN JUAN-ALAMO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT** known as **"PSJA"). IN 2007, THE SCHOOL DISTRICT ESTABLISHED "THE COLLEGE, CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY," WHICH INCLUDED A PARTNERSHIP WITH SOUTH TEXAS COLLEGE TO OFFER DUAL CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.**

IN TWO YEARS, THEY HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVED THE GRADUATION RATE FOR OUR LARGELY HISPANIC AND LOW-INCOME STUDENTS THROUGH THE WORK AT THAT ACADEMY. THEY CUT THE DROPOUT RATE BY 70%, AND INCREASED THE NUMBER GRADUATES FROM 966 TO 1595 STUDENTS IN TWO YEARS.

~~You should~~ I am pleased to inform you that the Melinda and Bill Gates Foundation have recognized PSJA's Superintendent Dr. King with many honors and school grants to promote Math and Science.

Furthermore, THE PHARR-SAN JUAN-ALAMO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT JUST OPENED A "T-STEM EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL." IN TEXAS, T-STEM EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOLS PROVIDE ADVANCED EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL STUDENTS TO EXCEED GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS BY OBTAINING AN ASSOCIATES DEGREE BEFORE GRADUATING FROM HIGH SCHOOL.

THE T-STEM EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOLS IN TEXAS CREATE CAREER PATHWAYS FOR STEM FIELDS, PARTICULARLY FOR HISPANIC AND LOW-INCOME STUDENTS AND I AM PLEASED THAT WE ARE EXPANDING THIS success MODEL.

Finally, as I approach my closing, I thank Congressman Kildee for hosting this hearing in ~~Flint~~ Univ. of Michigan-Flint

THE FORMULA FOR SUCCESS IS CONNECTING High School STUDENTS TO COLLEGE EARLY AND PROVIDING THEM WITH ENRICHED AND RIGOROUS COURSEWORK AND CONNECTING THEM TO OUR LOCAL community COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES BEFORE STUDENTS LEAVE HIGH SCHOOL. DUAL ENROLLMENT PROGRAMS AND EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOLS ALLOW US TO DO THIS.

Our jobless rate in my Cong. District when I came to Congress in 1997 was 22%. Federal and STATE investments in Human Capital thru education dropped the unemployment rate to 6% in 2006.

I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM TODAY'S WITNESSES ABOUT THE WORK THAT IS BEING DONE IN MICHIGAN. I HOPE TO TAKE BACK YOUR IDEAS TO THE MY CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, ~~THE FIFTEENTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS.~~

THANK YOU.