

TONY HERNANDEZ PUMAREJO

00:00:04,920 --> 00:00:05,560

Good afternoon.

00:00:05,560 --> 00:00:09,240

My name is Tony Hernández Pumarejo,
and thank you for tuning in

00:00:09,720 --> 00:00:13,520

to a new episode of the podcast
for our autism community,

00:00:13,920 --> 00:00:17,040

the podcast called “Hablemos Autismo”.

00:00:17,680 --> 00:00:22,760

And today I have the honor
and privilege of interviewing Congressman

00:00:23,040 --> 00:00:27,120

Henry Cuellar of the 28th Congressional
District of the United States,

00:00:27,480 --> 00:00:31,200

representing the 28th District
of the State of Texas.

00:00:31,360 --> 00:00:35,088

We’re going to provide a brief introduction
of our special guest.

00:00:36,065 --> 00:00:40,505

Congressman Cuellar
represents the

00:00:40,705 --> 00:00:40,360

28th Congressional District

00:00:41,240 --> 00:00:44,440
of the United States for the State of Texas
in the House of Representatives.

00:00:44,920 --> 00:00:49,160
Originally from the state of Texas,
he was born the son of immigrant

00:00:49,320 --> 00:00:53,640
farm workers in Laredo, Texas,
and grew up with his seven siblings.

00:00:54,400 --> 00:00:59,125
Congressman Cuellar
is passionate about education. He has

00:00:59,400 --> 00:01:02,400
an associate degree from
Laredo Community College and

00:01:03,152 --> 00:01:08,554
master's degrees from Georgetown University
and Texas A&M International University.

00:01:08,754 --> 00:01:12,557
He also has a degree in law
and a Ph.D.

00:01:13,416 --> 00:01:16,560
from the University of Texas,
Houston, which makes him

00:01:16,560 --> 00:01:20,720
the member of Congress
with the most post-secondary degrees.

00:01:21,520 --> 00:01:24,560
Congressman Cuellar
has worked as an educator,

00:01:24,960 --> 00:01:28,160

lawyer and the owner
of small businesses,

00:01:28,560 --> 00:01:32,280

in addition to his positions
in the state and federal governments.

00:01:32,760 --> 00:01:36,560

Cuellar was elected
to Congress for the first time in 2005,

00:01:37,000 --> 00:01:39,320

and is now serving his 10th term.

00:01:40,120 --> 00:01:43,880

The Congressman holds
important leadership positions,

00:01:44,280 --> 00:01:47,480

including as the senior
member of the Appropriations

00:01:47,520 --> 00:01:50,880

Committee of the House
of Representatives of the United States.

00:01:51,360 --> 00:01:53,400

And also, and this is very important,

00:01:53,840 --> 00:01:58,840

he is Co-Chair of the
Congressional Autism Caucus.

00:01:59,715 --> 00:02:01,013

When he's not in Washington D.C.,

00:02:01,213 --> 00:02:05,760

Representative Cuellar resides
in Laredo with his wife and two daughters.

00:02:06,120 --> 00:02:08,920
So it's an honor and a privilege of a lifetime
to have Congressman

00:02:09,320 --> 00:02:11,584
Henry Cuellar with us today.

00:02:11,996 --> 00:02:14,151
Representative, thank you for
being with us today

00:02:14,511 --> 00:02:16,387
on this episode of Hablemos Autismo.

REP. HENRY CUELLAR
00:02:17,991 --> 00:02:19,795
Thank you very much, and it's a pleasure

00:02:19,995 --> 00:02:22,800
to be here with you
and talk about a topic

00:02:23,520 --> 00:02:26,960
that is very important
to families

00:02:27,400 --> 00:02:30,320
anywhere in the United States

00:02:30,320 --> 00:02:32,360
when talking about autism.

TONY HERNANDEZ PUMAREJO
00:02:33,760 --> 00:02:36,082
Thank you, Representative.

00:02:37,786 --> 00:02:41,791
Before moving on to the topic of
legislative initiatives,

00:02:42,614 --> 00:02:46,277
we'd like to give our audience
that's listening the chance

00:02:46,477 --> 00:02:48,040
to learn a little bit more about you.

00:02:48,680 --> 00:02:51,400
And I wanted to ask, before moving on to

00:02:51,400 --> 00:02:55,560
analyze these efforts in Congress,
if can you tell us a bit about yourself.

00:02:55,720 --> 00:02:57,416
Before entering Congress,

00:02:57,997 --> 00:03:00,759
what inspired you to run
for an elected office?

REP. HENRY CUELLAR

00:03:01,800 --> 00:03:06,583
Well, first of all,
my parents were immigrants.

00:03:08,191 --> 00:03:10,289
They only knew a few words
in English.

00:03:10,513 --> 00:03:11,551
Everything in Spanish.

00:03:12,840 --> 00:03:16,800
They didn't attend school for more

than one or three years,

00:03:17,240 --> 00:03:22,080
because in those days
children were taken out

00:03:22,080 --> 00:03:24,680
to work in the fields.

00:03:25,080 --> 00:03:27,520
The more hands working, more money for the family.

00:03:27,960 --> 00:03:34,872
And my parents didn't have
many years of education.

00:03:35,072 --> 00:03:36,480
They worked hard,

00:03:36,960 --> 00:03:40,280
and later they had a family.

00:03:40,320 --> 00:03:43,880
I'm the oldest of eight children.

00:03:44,400 --> 00:03:48,914
It's important to point out
that my parents

00:03:49,114 --> 00:03:52,040
didn't have money, because
they were immigrant workers,

00:03:52,680 --> 00:03:55,800
but they were rich in love,

00:03:56,200 --> 00:03:59,800

00:04:00,360 --> 00:04:02,720
And they taught me two things:

00:04:03,160 --> 00:04:06,120
the importance of education

00:04:06,600 --> 00:04:10,920
and how to work hard
to achieve your goals.

00:04:11,880 --> 00:04:14,760
The importance of education
was very important,

00:04:14,760 --> 00:04:18,000
because they never had the opportunity

00:04:18,000 --> 00:04:21,320
to go to a high school or college.

00:04:21,720 --> 00:04:24,840
I'm the first in my family
to go to a college.

00:04:25,800 --> 00:04:30,360
And that's why the goals
are important that parents

00:04:30,360 --> 00:04:34,560
give to us,
their children.

TONY HERNANDEZ PUMAREJO
00:04:35,760 --> 00:04:36,547
Excellent.

00:04:37,362 --> 00:04:41,243
Your story, Representative Cuellar,

is the American dream.

00:04:41,800 --> 00:04:46,520

Your parents emigrated to this beautiful country
that you and I and many of us love.

00:04:47,120 --> 00:04:49,760

This story of working,
and expecting nothing,

00:04:50,320 --> 00:04:54,160

sacrificing oneself
to get ahead,

00:04:54,200 --> 00:04:56,280

which is the dream that,
especially in this Hispanic community,

00:04:56,720 --> 00:04:59,760

we identify with, which is the American dream.

REP. HENRY CUELLAR

00:05:00,600 --> 00:05:04,840

It is the American dream,
as you say, correct.

00:05:05,400 --> 00:05:08,520

They had no money,

00:05:08,520 --> 00:05:12,400

but they worked hard,

00:05:12,400 --> 00:05:15,760

and gave us the opportunity
to go to school.

00:05:16,200 --> 00:05:20,920

And as my
mom and dad said:

00:05:20,960 --> 00:05:25,120

Work hard,
get a good education,

00:05:25,200 --> 00:05:31,560

and you'll be good members
of this society.

00:05:32,760 --> 00:05:36,097

Thank you very much,
Representative Cuellar,

00:05:36,739 --> 00:05:38,360

for having shared
this story of your family

00:05:39,000 --> 00:05:41,520

and of how you were able
to move forward

00:05:41,520 --> 00:05:43,800

at that time
to fulfill your dreams.

00:05:44,200 --> 00:05:48,560

And as we mentioned,
you were elected to the 28th district.

00:05:49,040 --> 00:05:52,880

Tell us a little bit about your district
and the constituents you represent.

REP. HENRY CUELLAR

00:05:54,040 --> 00:05:58,093

Well, when I finished
my law degree,

00:05:58,883 --> 00:06:02,141

I began my career

as a lawyer,

00:06:02,640 --> 00:06:04,920
a small merchant,

00:06:05,320 --> 00:06:08,880
and I also taught at a school,
at Obrero School,

00:06:09,000 --> 00:06:12,800
and at the university,
here in Laredo,

00:06:12,840 --> 00:06:15,720
the TAMIU.

00:06:16,720 --> 00:06:18,840
I worked as a lawyer,

00:06:18,840 --> 00:06:21,880
and I decided to run for state representative.

00:06:22,440 --> 00:06:26,040
I spent 14 years as a state representative,

00:06:26,520 --> 00:06:30,520
and there are two things I did
that are important to me

00:06:30,840 --> 00:06:34,120
because it's what I learned from my parents.

00:06:34,480 --> 00:06:37,360
I started the largest
scholarship in the history

00:06:37,720 --> 00:06:40,440
of the State of Texas,
called the Texas Grant,

00:06:40,920 --> 00:06:45,520
in which, if a person has no money
and wants to go to college, they will.

00:06:46,080 --> 00:06:49,760
And this is important,
because my parents had no money

00:06:49,760 --> 00:06:52,800
for us
to go to college.

00:06:53,240 --> 00:06:56,560
And the other thing was that
I started the first pilot program

00:06:57,040 --> 00:07:02,200
of children's insurance,
the CHIP Program,

00:07:02,200 --> 00:07:06,720
at the Farias Elementary
school in Laredo.

00:07:07,680 --> 00:07:09,880
Those are two things I did,

00:07:09,880 --> 00:07:13,680
because afterwards
I was Secretary of State of Texas,

00:07:14,160 --> 00:07:18,640
and my State career
started.

00:07:18,640 --> 00:07:23,800
I went to the US Congress,
and now I'm on the Appropriations Committee.

00:07:23,800 --> 00:07:27,320

I'm the only Democrat in Texas
who's on this Committee.

00:07:28,440 --> 00:07:33,480
This is important because we can
put dollars in areas

00:07:33,480 --> 00:07:36,240
where they can have
a positive impact

00:07:36,720 --> 00:07:41,400
on the growth
of families.

00:07:41,880 --> 00:07:47,392
So, whether in the State or Congress,

00:07:47,592 --> 00:07:49,280
I've had the opportunity

00:07:49,320 --> 00:07:52,920
to work with many people
who want to improve

00:07:53,280 --> 00:07:57,400
the communities we have,
especially the families

00:07:57,400 --> 00:08:00,200
that need some kind of assistance.

TONY HERNANDEZ PUMAREJO

00:08:01,760 --> 00:08:04,240
Excellent.

00:08:04,240 --> 00:08:07,120
Throughout your career
there are different initiatives

00:08:07,120 --> 00:08:10,440
that you've worked on
for your population and for everyone,

00:08:10,560 --> 00:08:13,320
and obviously for the whole country,
for our entire nation,

00:08:13,960 --> 00:08:17,360
and along these lines, Representative,

00:08:18,320 --> 00:08:20,520
we saw that you started

00:08:20,520 --> 00:08:23,920
working on initiatives for autism.

00:08:24,840 --> 00:08:27,400
I wanted to ask you and was wondering

00:08:27,840 --> 00:08:29,089
about this question:

00:08:29,874 --> 00:08:36,360
What inspired you to get involved
in legislative initiatives for autism?

REP. HENRY CUELLAR

00:08:38,160 --> 00:08:41,400
I represent one area
of San Antonio,

00:08:41,680 --> 00:08:44,840
a large, urban part,

00:08:45,600 --> 00:08:47,760
Laredo, Texas, here on the border,

00:08:48,280 --> 00:08:52,760
and rural parts,

also at the border,

00:08:53,440 --> 00:08:58,320

and everywhere
there are families with whom I've spoken.

00:08:58,760 --> 00:09:01,600

They tell me, "hey, I have a son or daughter

00:09:02,000 --> 00:09:04,600

who has autism, and I need help."

00:09:05,240 --> 00:09:08,000

Often there are small communities

00:09:08,000 --> 00:09:11,120

that don't have resources,

00:09:11,120 --> 00:09:14,880

and during times like
the pandemic,

00:09:15,400 --> 00:09:20,520

it was very difficult because the children
weren't going to school and were at home,

00:09:21,000 --> 00:09:26,040

and for families who have
a son or daughter with autism, it

00:09:26,120 --> 00:09:29,440

was very difficult for them.

00:09:29,440 --> 00:09:33,280

The service that schools sometimes
provide wasn't available.

00:09:33,720 --> 00:09:38,440
And that's why I decided to
focus on

00:09:38,880 --> 00:09:43,360
helping families
who need it, with autism.

00:09:43,360 --> 00:09:47,480
When I was
with my friend and neighbor,

00:09:48,360 --> 00:09:51,440
Chris Smith of New Jersey,
at the Capitol,

00:09:51,840 --> 00:09:57,560
I said to him: "Let's work
together, Republican and Democrat,

00:09:58,200 --> 00:10:02,440
to find ways
to support autism."

00:10:02,440 --> 00:10:06,520
He asked me if I wanted to
to be his Co-Chair

00:10:06,520 --> 00:10:09,520
in the Autism Caucus.

00:10:09,560 --> 00:10:13,920
I gladly accepted,
and now we're working

00:10:14,400 --> 00:10:16,840
to make changes to the law,

00:10:17,280 --> 00:10:21,560
and I'm working, in my committee,
to provide funds and resources

00:10:21,960 --> 00:10:24,680
to try and help
these families with autism.

TONY HERNANDEZ PUMAREJO

00:10:28,520 --> 00:10:32,640
And about the Congressional Autism
Caucus,

00:10:33,440 --> 00:10:34,920
please explain in greater detail

00:10:34,920 --> 00:10:38,400
what is the purpose
of this Autism Caucus.

00:10:39,000 --> 00:10:41,000
And what it means for you

00:10:41,640 --> 00:10:45,360
to be the leader of this caucus
and of these initiatives for autism.

REP. HENRY CUELLAR

00:10:46,920 --> 00:10:50,400
It's important to note that, in Congress,

00:10:50,400 --> 00:10:53,960
we have to deal with many matters.

00:10:54,000 --> 00:10:59,920
Border security issues,
issues of nations

00:10:59,920 --> 00:11:02,400
that are not great friends with us.

00:11:03,040 --> 00:11:07,306
We're talking about China,
Russia, North Korea, Iran and others.

00:11:07,506 --> 00:11:11,240
Many subjects related to different things,

00:11:11,760 --> 00:11:16,280
but family issues

00:11:17,400 --> 00:11:20,080
are something very important,

00:11:20,520 --> 00:11:24,880
and the Caucus provides the opportunity
to educate my colleagues.

00:11:25,320 --> 00:11:28,920
Because, as I say, we have a lot of work to do
as congressmen

00:11:29,760 --> 00:11:32,720
in Washington regarding many issues,

00:11:33,200 --> 00:11:36,360
and the Caucus helps us to focus

00:11:36,920 --> 00:11:39,920
on a subject we can't forget,

00:11:39,920 --> 00:11:42,280
which is the autism that we find

00:11:43,200 --> 00:11:45,280
in some families.

00:11:45,720 --> 00:11:50,040
That's why the Caucus for me
is important, putting the focus

00:11:50,400 --> 00:11:53,160
on educating colleagues,

00:11:53,560 --> 00:11:58,680
giving the opportunity
to families who come to Washington

00:11:58,680 --> 00:12:04,720
to talk with members
so we can learn about their needs,

00:12:07,320 --> 00:12:11,120
and not only the needs of these people,
but also the aid

00:12:11,520 --> 00:12:14,160
that parents sometimes need,

00:12:14,160 --> 00:12:17,160
or the caregiver,

00:12:17,560 --> 00:12:21,320
and what we can do to
train a parent,

00:12:21,320 --> 00:12:26,560
if there is a young parent who has a child

00:12:27,000 --> 00:12:31,040
with autism.
As a young parent,

00:12:31,560 --> 00:12:36,040

how are they going to help their child?

00:12:36,400 --> 00:12:38,880

And so there are many ways
in which the Caucus can help us.

TONY HERNANDEZ PUMAREJO

00:12:44,120 --> 00:12:47,480

As part of this community,

00:12:47,880 --> 00:12:51,200

I'd like to thank you and the Caucus
for the work you're doing,

00:12:51,880 --> 00:12:54,680

for this cause that
not only has an impact on

00:12:56,040 --> 00:12:58,200

part of the population,

00:12:58,200 --> 00:13:03,280

but on everyone as a society,

00:13:03,480 --> 00:13:04,990

because autism rates
continue to grow every year,

00:13:06,920 --> 00:13:11,040

and this will require more effort
by our elected representatives

00:13:12,480 --> 00:13:16,200

to help families
impacted by autism.

00:13:16,200 --> 00:13:18,720

And along this line,
Representative Cuellar,

00:13:18,880 --> 00:13:22,376

let's talk a little bit,
let's go back to your district,

00:13:22,576 --> 00:13:25,160

to the city of Laredo.

00:13:25,160 --> 00:13:27,960

As you know, the city of Laredo,

00:13:28,520 --> 00:13:33,600

your district, is now
one of 16 sites in the United States

00:13:34,200 --> 00:13:36,840

designated at the federal level to monitor

00:13:37,320 --> 00:13:40,360

the prevalence
of autism.

00:13:41,040 --> 00:13:46,863

This means that, as well as helping
to estimate the number of people

00:13:47,559 --> 00:13:49,360

who are diagnosed with autism,

00:13:49,560 --> 00:13:52,520

there will be more local data
available on autism

00:13:52,520 --> 00:13:56,000

in the state of Texas,
and South Texas specifically.

00:13:56,800 --> 00:13:59,920
Why do you think that having
this information will be useful

00:14:00,440 --> 00:14:04,760
for improving the results of people
and families impacted by autism?

REP. HENRY CUELLAR

00:14:06,040 --> 00:14:10,699
I remember when we announced this
last year,

00:14:10,899 --> 00:14:15,375
I think there were
2.4 million dollars

00:14:15,575 --> 00:14:20,345
for Laredo
to conduct these new studies,

00:14:21,464 --> 00:14:27,183
and I remember seeing friends

00:14:28,215 --> 00:14:31,088
who didn't know their children had autism.

00:14:31,280 --> 00:14:34,640
I learned a lot, just watching

00:14:34,680 --> 00:14:37,400
who was in the audience
there at City Hall.

00:14:44,538 --> 00:14:47,840
I as a congressman, both you and we
know that, with autism,

00:14:48,360 --> 00:14:51,440

it doesn't matter if you come from a family

00:14:51,560 --> 00:14:54,320
with or without money,

00:14:55,320 --> 00:14:59,408
we can see this
in different families.

00:15:02,181 --> 00:15:04,221
For the CDC, it's important to

00:15:04,853 --> 00:15:07,118
see this kind of information,

00:15:07,318 --> 00:15:09,800
especially in areas such as the border,

00:15:10,480 --> 00:15:15,880
and sometimes when they talk about the border, they
talk about the immigration issue,

00:15:16,360 --> 00:15:19,840
but Laredo,
if you look at the numbers of the US Centers,

00:15:20,400 --> 00:15:23,560
is the city with the highest percentage

00:15:24,720 --> 00:15:28,680
of Hispanic people nationwide, given that 96%

00:15:28,680 --> 00:15:33,200
of the people living in Laredo
are Hispanic, and speak Spanish.

00:15:33,800 --> 00:15:37,280

There are some French people,
but they speak English and Spanish.

00:15:40,800 --> 00:15:44,200
That's why it's no longer just the big cities.

00:15:44,520 --> 00:15:47,120
It's no longer just New York,
it's no longer just Miami...

00:15:47,880 --> 00:15:51,440
We need to have this kind of
information for the CDC

00:15:52,080 --> 00:15:56,478
in all parts
of the nation

00:15:56,871 --> 00:15:59,480
to get the right information

00:15:59,800 --> 00:16:04,920
and take steps
to improve these lives.

TONY HERNANDEZ PUMAREJO
00:16:05,920 --> 00:16:08,000
It's interesting that you,
Representative,

00:16:08,040 --> 00:16:10,520
share this detail
about the city of Laredo

00:16:11,120 --> 00:16:14,480
and its importance in our nation

00:16:15,240 --> 00:16:20,360
and about the opportunities to work
here in terms of services

00:16:20,400 --> 00:16:24,520
and support for our Hispanic families
impacted by autism.

00:16:25,040 --> 00:16:27,320
And I thank you very much
for sharing this detail.

00:16:27,960 --> 00:16:30,840
and along these lines, Representative,

00:16:31,360 --> 00:16:35,200
let's talk a little bit about the work
in Congress about the disparities

00:16:35,520 --> 00:16:40,440
in autism services.
The access to health services

00:16:40,440 --> 00:16:45,320
and necessary support vary significantly
within the autism population.

00:16:46,040 --> 00:16:50,160
A recent study
shows that Hispanic children with autism

00:16:50,760 --> 00:16:54,880
are at higher risk
of having poor health outcomes.

00:16:55,560 --> 00:16:58,680
Yet, for Latinos
or Hispanics with autism,

00:16:59,040 --> 00:17:02,520
and their families,
often the challenges

00:17:02,520 --> 00:17:07,120
to access the services
are greater for a variety of reasons.

00:17:07,800 --> 00:17:09,840
For example, another study found

00:17:10,400 --> 00:17:16,280
that autistic Hispanics
had access to far fewer resources

00:17:16,280 --> 00:17:19,280
than their Anglo-Saxon or white counterparts.

00:17:19,840 --> 00:17:23,720
In fact, that study showed
that the Rio Grande area,

00:17:24,320 --> 00:17:28,200
in Roma, in your district,
had ten times fewer resources

00:17:28,680 --> 00:17:32,760
for autistic children
than what was typical at the national level.

00:17:33,400 --> 00:17:37,200
We know that you assumed
this leadership role to help

00:17:37,680 --> 00:17:40,760
close some of these gaps,
so my question is:

00:17:41,400 --> 00:17:45,200
What can Congress do

00:17:45,200 --> 00:17:49,040
to improve the results
for autistic people and their families,

00:17:49,520 --> 00:17:52,280
particularly
Latino individuals and families?

00:17:52,760 --> 00:17:56,440
And my other question is:
can you tell us about

00:17:56,440 --> 00:18:00,800
some of these initiatives that
you're working on

00:18:01,040 --> 00:18:06,000
as Co-Chair
of the Autism Caucus in Congress?

REP. HENRY CUELLAR

00:18:06,160 --> 00:18:12,160
Well, first,
when there's a problem, we need data,

00:18:13,200 --> 00:18:15,760
facts, to understand what steps

00:18:15,760 --> 00:18:20,760
we need to take to find
a practical solution.

00:18:21,320 --> 00:18:23,920
One such data, as you said,

00:18:23,920 --> 00:18:26,760
is that the Hispanic community

00:18:27,080 --> 00:18:31,280

is growing very, very rapidly.

00:18:32,760 --> 00:18:36,880

For example, in the state of Texas,
in the last

00:18:36,880 --> 00:18:40,520

two Censuses of 2010 and 2020,

00:18:41,120 --> 00:18:44,200

the fastest growing sector

00:18:45,720 --> 00:18:48,640

here in Texas was that of Hispanics.

00:18:49,400 --> 00:18:54,960

And among Hispanics,
we see that the money

00:18:54,960 --> 00:18:59,520

families make is lower
than in other areas.

00:19:00,480 --> 00:19:04,320

It's a young population

00:19:05,200 --> 00:19:07,440

because we're growing very rapidly.

00:19:08,080 --> 00:19:10,600

And that's why knowing these data

00:19:11,160 --> 00:19:15,080

is important for
knowing where to put the money.

00:19:15,600 --> 00:19:20,000

In Congress, on the Committee, for example,

00:19:20,320 --> 00:19:23,480
there's a program,
and we allocate money,

00:19:23,920 --> 00:19:28,800
and we expect this money
to reach the areas that need it.

00:19:29,400 --> 00:19:33,480
That's why, as you just now said,
sometimes Hispanics

00:19:33,600 --> 00:19:36,800
or, as in the studies you indicated,

00:19:40,320 --> 00:19:45,480
sometimes it can be seen that the resources don't reach them;
the aid doesn't arrive.

00:19:46,000 --> 00:19:50,120
Especially what we're seeing right now,

00:19:50,880 --> 00:19:55,440
the growth of Hispanics,
no longer just domestic

00:19:55,440 --> 00:19:59,280
i.e. those who were born here,

00:19:59,760 --> 00:20:04,680
but we're getting people
from Central America and Honduras, Guatemala

00:20:04,720 --> 00:20:09,400
and other areas, and this
community is growing faster.

00:20:09,880 --> 00:20:13,360
Knowing the data, where to put the resources,

00:20:13,720 --> 00:20:16,977
is very important, and
that's something I hope to

00:20:17,395 --> 00:20:20,555
work on with you, and
work on with the Caucus,

00:20:21,215 --> 00:20:26,240
to see where we must
put the resources.

00:20:26,760 --> 00:20:29,120
You know, right now,

00:20:29,840 --> 00:20:35,301
some colleagues want to cut back
130 billion dollars,

00:20:36,133 --> 00:20:37,674
but there are some areas where,
in my opinion,

00:20:37,874 --> 00:20:42,000
we must not cut back:
areas of aid for families,

00:20:42,000 --> 00:20:45,080
so they can grow stronger,
and helping children

00:20:45,560 --> 00:20:48,120
is very important for our future,

00:20:48,400 --> 00:20:52,440
not only for the families,
but for the future of the United States.

TONY HERNANDEZ PUMAREJO

00:20:53,760 --> 00:20:54,480
Excellent.

00:20:54,480 --> 00:20:57,920
We're very grateful to you and your team,

00:20:57,920 --> 00:21:03,400
and to the Caucus, in terms of working
on these much-needed initiatives,

00:21:03,400 --> 00:21:07,800
because, to repeat, not only do they have
an impact on one segment of the population,

00:21:08,320 --> 00:21:12,120
but rather impact our entire society,
our entire country.

00:21:12,600 --> 00:21:16,440
And that's why it's very important
to provide those resources, those funds,

00:21:16,440 --> 00:21:20,560
and that aid,
to support, through more programs,

00:21:20,560 --> 00:21:24,200
families
that live with autism every day.

00:21:24,760 --> 00:21:28,760
And before concluding this interview,
and once again, Congressman Cuellar,

00:21:28,760 --> 00:21:33,320
thank you for being with us
in this episode of my podcast,

00:21:33,360 --> 00:21:37,400
I wanted to ask you
what message you'd like

00:21:37,440 --> 00:21:41,720
to share with Hispanic families
who are watching this podcast

00:21:42,240 --> 00:21:46,160
right now and who have loved ones
with autism, about the work

00:21:46,160 --> 00:21:50,320
that you and the Autism Caucus
in Congress are doing,

00:21:50,680 --> 00:21:54,920
and how your efforts can help
on behalf of the autism community.

REP. HENRY CUELLAR

00:21:56,400 --> 00:21:59,840
The major changes
that I've seen as a congressman

00:21:59,840 --> 00:22:03,960
are not my ideas:
they're just ideas

00:22:05,000 --> 00:22:07,080
we get from the community.

00:22:07,080 --> 00:22:08,280
Hey, Congressman,

00:22:08,280 --> 00:22:10,600
have you thought about doing this?
Hey, Congressman,

00:22:11,000 --> 00:22:14,320
did you know that we have this problem?

00:22:14,680 --> 00:22:16,840
Do you know that I'm a young parent,

00:22:17,160 --> 00:22:19,520
and I have a child with autism?

00:22:19,520 --> 00:22:22,280
We need good training.

00:22:22,640 --> 00:22:25,640
Schools need this kind of help

00:22:25,920 --> 00:22:28,320
to help these children.

00:22:29,200 --> 00:22:31,840
The importance of the community

00:22:32,640 --> 00:22:35,680
in talking to a congressman
is very important.

00:22:35,680 --> 00:22:36,920
And I implore,

00:22:36,920 --> 00:22:40,240
if they have ideas,
they must communicate them

00:22:40,240 --> 00:22:43,280

to my office or their congressman.

00:22:43,640 --> 00:22:46,400

We, the Caucus,

00:22:46,920 --> 00:22:49,680

are going to help as much as possible.

00:22:50,160 --> 00:22:55,160

The Hispanic Caucus, who are congressmen
from different areas,

00:22:55,160 --> 00:23:00,440

are also going to push to help,
especially Hispanics.

00:23:00,440 --> 00:23:04,680

There are different ways,
but the important point is you.

00:23:05,400 --> 00:23:09,720

Your voice is very important,
and therefore

00:23:09,720 --> 00:23:14,040

I'm asking you
to contact me,

00:23:14,040 --> 00:23:18,880

or to contact
your congressman.

00:23:18,880 --> 00:23:24,920

We want to hear
your voice in order to improve

00:23:25,440 --> 00:23:27,520

the autism services

00:23:27,960 --> 00:23:30,760
for your children or your family.

TONY HERNANDEZ PUMAREJO

00:23:32,640 --> 00:23:33,400
Excellent.

00:23:33,400 --> 00:23:39,000
Thank you again
on behalf of our autism community.

00:23:39,640 --> 00:23:43,720
We'd like to thank you for your leadership,
with Representative

00:23:44,040 --> 00:23:48,560
Chris Smith of New Jersey,
and the entire Autism Caucus.

00:23:48,840 --> 00:23:50,880
And it's so great that we're
talking about this subject,

00:23:50,880 --> 00:23:54,200
especially when this episode
is being transmitted

00:23:54,520 --> 00:23:58,920
during Hispanic Heritage Month,
especially that within the Hispanic community.

00:23:59,040 --> 00:24:02,800
we talk about autism and, more importantly,
that our autism

00:24:03,440 --> 00:24:05,800
community is informed

00:24:06,640 --> 00:24:11,480
about the initiatives that
Congress is working on.

00:24:11,960 --> 00:24:14,680
I appeal to all the families

00:24:15,280 --> 00:24:17,720
tuning in to this podcast

00:24:18,240 --> 00:24:22,400
to take a more active role in advocating and

00:24:23,160 --> 00:24:26,240
in fighting for services and support

00:24:26,280 --> 00:24:31,000
in order to provide a better quality of life
for our loved ones,

00:24:31,200 --> 00:24:33,840
who've been
diagnosed with autism.

00:24:34,320 --> 00:24:38,280
Congressman Henry Cuellar, it has been an honor
and the privilege of my life

00:24:38,640 --> 00:24:42,680
to have you on my podcast,
Hablemos Autismo.

00:24:43,080 --> 00:24:44,160
This is your home.

00:24:44,160 --> 00:24:48,240
You're always welcome to come

another time, and again,

00:24:48,240 --> 00:24:51,880

thank you for your participation
in this special episode of the podcast,

00:24:51,880 --> 00:24:52,880

Hablemos Autismo.

REP. HENRY CUELLAR

00:24:54,360 --> 00:24:55,760

Thank you very much,

00:24:55,760 --> 00:25:00,160

and thank you very much
for being the voice of these families,

00:25:00,160 --> 00:25:04,320

who sometimes don't want to talk or
believe they can't talk.

00:25:04,680 --> 00:25:08,080

You're letting their voices be heard
on the podcast,

00:25:08,640 --> 00:25:11,640

Hablemos Autismo.

Thank you very much.

TONY HERNANDEZ PUMAREJO

00:25:12,360 --> 00:25:13,320

Thank you, Representative Cuellar.