

June 2, 2022

The Honorable Dr. Miguel Cardona
Secretary of Education
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue SW
Washington D.C. 20202

Mr. Bryan Williams
Director, Safe & Supportive Schools
U.S. Department of Education, OESE
400 Maryland Avenue SW
Washington, DC 2020

Dear Secretary Cardona and Director Williams,

Thank you for the Department of Education's efforts in responding to the horrible tragedy that took place in Uvalde on May 24, 2022. As you know, I represent the community of Uvalde, TX, where on May 24, 2022, a shooter entered Robb Elementary School and killed nineteen students and two educators and wounded 17 others. In the coming days, Robb Elementary School, and Uvalde Consolidated Independent School District (CISD) will need continued federal support to recover.

I urge you to expeditiously approve Uvalde CISD related grant requests for School Emergency Response to Violence (Project SERV), administered by the Office of Safe and Supportive Schools (OSSS). This program provides school districts with targeted mental health assessments, referrals, and services related to this traumatic event, with the goal of restoring educational services to their pre-incident levels of functioning. Furthermore, it bolsters emergency transportation for students and faculty, provides technical assistance on developing crisis response and allows for the placement of temporary increased security measures. All of these initiatives would help the Uvalde community return to a learning environment and begin the long recovery from this tragedy. I also urge you to support any other Department of Education grant programs the Uvalde community may apply for as they recover.

Thank you for your continued support for Robb Elementary School and the Uvalde CISD. We pray that our communities never experience another tragedy like we have seen in Uvalde. I stand ready to assist in any way.

Sincerely,



Tony Gonzales
Member of Congress

Cc: Hal Harrell, Superintendent, Uvalde CISD
Hon. William R. Mitchell, Uvalde County Judge
Don McLaughlin, Mayor, City of Uvalde
Vince DiPiazza, City Manager, City of Uvalde
Joe A. Cardenas, Asst. City Manager, City of Uvalde