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Video of Another Bush-Cuellar Embrace



Credit: CNN

For two years in a row, Henry Cuellar has made a serious effort to hug the President and sit on the Republican side of the aisle at the State of the Union Speech. This video clip from 2005 is strikingly similar to the 2006 Cuellar-Bush embrace.

[See Clip HERE](#)

Why Democrats Don't Trust Henry Cuellar

With Henry Cuellar, it is not about conservative or liberal. It is about betrayal and dishonesty. Cuellar's voting record and his efforts to eliminate Democratic colleagues from Congress reflect a politician who cares only for himself and not for those he represents or the ideals of the Democratic Party.

Henry Cuellar claims to be a Democrat, but his record shows that he has repeatedly betrayed the Democratic Party

- In 2003, **Cuellar worked with Tom DeLay ally** and House Redistricting Committee Chairman Phil King to redraw Texas congressional districts and **eliminate five senior Democrats from Congress**. Phil King said, "Henry is a friend, and I like him, and he knew I'd listen to what he said." (Source: Phil King Deposition November 23, 2003)

- **Cuellar left his Democratic House seat to work as Republican Governor Rick Perry's first official appointment** as Secretary of State. (Source: San Antonio Express-News, February 26, 2001)
- As Rick Perry's Secretary of State Cuellar **abandoned Democrats** and worked directly with Tom DeLay and other Republicans during the 2001 redistricting lawsuits. The Fort Worth Star Telegram reported, "The lawyer for the Democrats argued that his side should prevail because it filed its lawsuit first. The lawyers for the Republicans countered that the GOP suit is the most appropriate because it was filed only after it became clear that the Legislature could not agree on a redistricting plan. **Gov. Rick Perry and Attorney General John Cornyn, both Republicans, back the GOP argument, as does Secretary of State Henry Cuellar**, the state's chief elections officer whom Perry appointed. The Democratic lawyer cried foul. (Fort Worth Star Telegram, September 11, 2001)
- Cuellar began scheming with Republicans for a South Texas Congressional seat in 2001 as Secretary of State. The Houston Chronicle reported, "[Cuellar] would be interested in an open Hispanic congressional seat for South Texas if the courts create it. 'I'm looking at all the options that come from redistricting,' Cuellar said. "(Source: Houston Chronicle October 03, 2001)
- In 2000, **Cuellar endorsed George Bush over Al Gore** and even traveled the country to campaign on Bush's behalf. (Source: San Antonio Express-News October 28, 2000)
- Cuellar wrote a "Harriet Miers" note to Republican Rick Perry as he resigned. "I am very proud of you. **You are a great governor**," He signed it, "your friend (Amigo), Henry" (Source: Associated Press, October 3, 2001)

Sources:

- The following are quotes from State Rep. Phil King's deposition in Session v. Perry. King was the chair of the House Redistricting Committee during Texas redistricting.
- Deposition exchange between Gerry Hebert, attorney for the Democratic appellants, and Phil King, Republican Chair of the Texas House Redistricting Committee.

Hebert Q. Who is Henry Cuellar?

King A. He used to be in the House and he was Secretary of State.

Hebert Q. Did he call you throughout the entire process or just when it was in the committee?

King A. Henry called me on a number of occasions throughout the entire process.

Hebert Q. And what were some of his suggestions?

King A. To keep Laredo intact.

Hebert Q. And you could split Webb County as long as you keep Laredo intact under some of his options?

King A. Yeah, I think so.

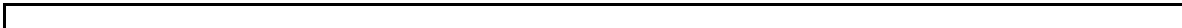
Hebert Q. Okay.

King A. I think so. Again, his -- his focus was my political base is Laredo, and -- and if I'm going to run for Congress, that's where I need to be. And Henry is a friend, and I like him, and he knew I'd listen to what he said.

Source: Phil King Deposition (Sessions v. Perry NOVEMBER 23, 2003)

- Cuellar said he has ruled out any race against U.S. Rep. Henry Bonilla, R-San Antonio. But Cuellar said he would be interested in an open Hispanic congressional seat for South Texas if the courts create it. "I'm looking at all the options that come from redistricting," Cuellar said. "It's up to the courts." (Source: Houston Chronicle October 03, 2001)
- His typed letter of resignation included a handwritten note to Perry. "I will never forget a person who has been so giving as you have been. I am very proud of you. You are a great governor," Cuellar wrote. He signed it, "your friend (Amigo), Henry." (Source: Associated Press, October 3, 2001)
- State Rep. Henry Cuellar, a Laredo Democrat, has crossed party lines to extol Bush's capabilities to Hispanics in Wisconsin. (Source: San Antonio Express-News October 28, 2000)
- "Cuellar became secretary of state as the first appointment of Republican Gov. Rick Perry." (Source: San Antonio Express-News, February 26, 2001)
- "While many have speculated on Cuellar's Democratic credentials after his endorsement of Republican George W. Bush for president" (Source: San Antonio Express-News, January 7, 2001)

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