

LONE STAR PROJECT

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Henry Cuellar – The Democrat that Republicans Count On...and Pay Off

Club for Growth rewards Cuellar with its first ever endorsement of a Democrat

“Dime con quien andas y te diré quien eres.”

(Translation: “Tell me who you are with, and I will tell you who you are.”)

Any question that Henry Cuellar has earned the affection of the most extreme factions of the Republican Party was put to rest when the Club for Growth announced that it had endorsed Cuellar.

What is the Club for Growth?

The Club for Growth is one of the most prominent and controversial right wing advocacy groups in the country. The Club for Growth website proudly boasts, “The primary tactic of the Club for Growth PAC has been to **provide financial support** from Club members to viable pro-growth candidates to Congress, **particularly in Republican primaries.**” (Source: Clubforgrowth.org) Some of the many anti-family, anti-consumer, anti-labor positions championed by the Club for Growth include:

- Taxpayer Funding of Private Schools
- Opposition to Raising the Minimum Wage
- Eliminating Estate Taxes on Millionaires
- Passage of CAFTA

(Source: Clubforgrowth.org)

Why Did Club for Growth Endorse Cuellar?

Before entering Congress, Henry Cuellar had built a well-deserved reputation for betraying his Democratic colleagues and his constituents to do the bidding of Republican leaders.

- As a Texas State House Member, Cuellar broke with Democrats working to protect public schools and instead joined with Republican leaders to introduce legislation to make taxpayer funds available for private school tuition. *(Source: The Dallas Morning News, December 16, 2000)*

- 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 was Republican Governor Rick Perry's first official appointment as Secretary of State. (Source: *San Antonio Express-News*, February 26, 2001)
- 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. (Source: *Phil King Deposition* November 23, 2003)

What Has Cuellar Done for Republicans Lately?

After winning a narrow election to Congress in 2004, Cuellar immediately established himself as a Democrat the Republican leadership can do business with. In his only year in Congress, Cuellar:

- Broke with the Democratic Leadership to support and promote; CAFTA; (Source: *109th Congress Roll Call vote 443, July 28, 2005*)
- Broke with Democrats to support the Republican Tax Package; (Source: *109th Congress Roll Call vote 621, December 8, 2005*)
- Broke with Democrats to support the Republican Immigration plan to build a wall along the US/Mexico border; (Source: *109th Congress Roll Call vote 31, February 10, 2005*)
- Broke with Democrats to support Republican Leadership to limit the access of individuals to pursue civil class action law suits; (Source: *109th Congress Roll Call Vote 38, February 17, 2005*)

In fact, the highly respect political journal Congressional Quarterly Weekly recently issued a report showing that Henry Cuellar voted against his party the 10th most often in Congress. (CQ Weekly January 9, 2006)

The Club for Growth and Cuellar

In commenting upon Cuellar's record, the Club for Growth stated, "we're committed to helping elect him, and more legislators like him, to Congress."

(Source: Club for Growth website, January 17, 2005 [click for link](#))

Who else has Club for Growth supported?

- Pat Toomey (R) - Toomey ran against Arlene Specter (R – PA), a moderate Republican, who ushered John Roberts through the Judiciary Committee and is doing the same for Samuel Alito.
- Jeff Flake (R)- CFG wanted Flake to challenge John McCain (R – AZ) in the primary despite the fact that McCain votes Republican 84% of the time and is a widely respected Senate leader. In August of 2005, CFG ran attack ads against McCain in NH.
- Steve Laffey (R)- CFG endorsed Laffey in a primary against Sen. Lincoln Chafee (R- RI) despite his support of CAFTA.

Sources:

“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

One area where Mr. Cuellar positioned himself closer to Republicans than fellow Democrats was on the volatile issue of school vouchers, in which public funds are used to pay private school tuition for students.

Source: The Dallas Morning News, December 16, 2000

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

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.

2 Q. Who is Henry Cuellar?

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

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

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

25 Q. And what were some of his suggestions?

1 A. To keep Laredo intact.

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

4 A. Yeah, I think so.

5 Q. Okay.

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

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

109th Congress Roll Call vote 38, February 17, 2005 –Class Action Fairness Act

109th Congress Roll Call vote 443, July 28, 2005 – Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act

109th Congress Roll Call vote 621, December 8, 2005 - Tax Relief Extension Reconciliation Act

109th Congress Roll Call vote 31, February 10, 2005 - REAL ID Act

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