



SENATOR HARRY REID, MAJORITY LEADER  
**WORKING FOR NEVADA'S ASIAN AMERICAN  
 AND PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITY**



*Harry Reid has long been a friend to Nevada's Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community and, as Senate Majority Leader, has advocated tirelessly on issues important to AAPIs across the nation. One of the things he takes the most pride in is the diversity of our state. The contributions of each community make Nevada stronger, and the AAPI community is a great example of that. Southern Nevada has one of the fastest growing Asian populations in the country and it is one that adds great cultural richness to the state. Senator Reid led the charge for historic health care reform that will extend health care to millions and will greatly benefit AAPIs in Nevada. He has also worked to fix our economy by creating jobs and opening new opportunities for small business. Senator Reid understands the contributions made by AAPIs to the Silver State and values equal opportunity and prosperity for all Nevadans.*

**Senator Reid is Working to Boost Our Economy By Creating New Jobs, Supporting Small Businesses, Raising the Minimum Wage, and Protecting Consumers.** Senator Reid reinforced his support of Nevadans by leading the passage of critical legislation to boost the economy, provide workers with fair pay, and ensure protection for consumers.

- **Creating Jobs** Senator Reid shepherded passage of the *Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment Act of 2010* (HIRE Act) which helps Nevada businesses put unemployed Nevadans back to work by offering tax credits and incentives to employers for hiring people who are currently out of work. The law also helps to grow small businesses by allowing them to write off costs for major purchases. Through the Build America Bonds extension and the highway extension, Senator Reid is helping put more Nevadans back to work through brick and mortar projects like school construction and rehabilitation, building highway projects, and building renewable energy and conservation projects. Senator Reid also led the passage of the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* (Recovery Act) that brings \$3 billion in federal funding to Nevada and has already created or saved 29,000 jobs in Nevada, with many more on the horizon. [H.R. 2847, Senate Vote 55, 03/17/10, P.L. 111-147; H.R. 1, Senate Vote 64, 02/13/09, P.L. 111-005]

**HIGHLIGHTS SENATOR REID'S  
 ASIAN AMERICANS & PACIFIC  
 ISLANDERS RECORD**

- ★ Senator Reid is Working to Boost Our Economy by Creating New Jobs, Supporting Small Businesses, Raising the Minimum Wage, and Protecting Consumers
- ★ Senator Reid is Fighting to Stop Foreclosures and Keep Nevadans in Their Homes
- ★ Senator Reid Fought for Nevada's Families By Extending Unemployment Benefits, Providing Food for Families and Children, and Supporting Tax Cuts
- ★ Senator Reid Worked Hard to Expand Health Coverage to All Nevadans, Including Children and Low-Income Families and Understands Health Concerns Affecting the AAPI Community
- ★ Senator Reid is a Leader for Comprehensive Immigration Reform That is Tough, Fair, and Practical
- ★ Senator Reid Understands the Important Role Education Plays Within Families and Communities and Has Supported Many Initiatives to Increase Educational Opportunities for AAPIs
- ★ Senator Reid Has Long Been an Advocate for Civil Rights Initiatives and For Ensuring Equality Across Society
- ★ Senator Reid Fought to Pass Legislation Honoring Filipino World War II Veterans

- ***Supporting Small Businesses*** According to the Small Business Administration, small businesses created about 70% of new net jobs annually over the last decade, and serve as the engine that drives our nation’s labor force. In Nevada, there are over 215,000 small businesses that generate \$6.7 billion dollars annually. Asian- and Pacific Islander-owned small businesses make up 9,000 of these businesses. Senator Reid understands that small businesses are the driving forces behind Nevada’s economy, which is why he has worked tirelessly to provide tax relief for small business owners; to ensure they have access to credit to meet immediate payroll demands and long-term capital investments; and to make it easier for small businesses to provide health insurance benefits for their employees. Most recently, he fought to pass the *Small Business Jobs Act*, which increases access to capital, provides some \$12 billion in tax incentives for small business job creation, and promotes entrepreneurship through contracting parity and export assistance. Senator Reid will continue to fight on behalf of Nevada’s small businesses. [H.R. 1, Senate Vote 64, 02/13/09, P.L. 111-5; H.R. 3548, Senate Vote 334, 11/04/09, P.L. 111-092; H.R. 2847, Senate Vote 23, 02/22/10, Senate Vote 25, 02/24/10, P.L. 111-147; H.R. 4213, Senate Vote 48, 03/10/2010, Senate Vote 215, 07/21/10, P.L. 111-205; S.Amdt. 3852, Senate Vote 205, 07/17/00; H.R. 3590, Senate Vote 396, 12/24/2009, P.L. 111-148; H.R.5297, Senate Vote 202, 06/29/10]
- ***Raising the Minimum Wage*** After nearly a decade of struggle against Republican opposition, Senator Reid helped usher through the first increase to the federal minimum wage since 1997. The *Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007* raised minimum wage from \$5.15 an hour to \$7.25 an hour over two years, directly or indirectly benefiting 13 million workers. [H.R. 2, Senate Vote 42, 02/01/07, P.L. 110-028]
- ***Protecting Consumers*** Under Senator Reid’s leadership, the Senate passed the *Credit Card Accountability Responsibility and Disclosure Act of 2009* (CARD Act). This bill creates several protections for consumers against misleading credit card company policies. Many Asian American and Pacific Islander families have fallen victim to unjust credit card guidelines, and this law protects them. In his fight to protect consumers, Senator Reid stood on the side of Main Street by passing the *Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act*. This legislation creates the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), an independent watchdog housed at the Federal Reserve with the authority to ensure American consumers get the clear and accurate information they need to shop for mortgages, credit cards, and other financial products, and protect them from hidden fees, abusive terms, and deceptive practices. [H.R. 627, Senate Vote 194, 05/19/09, P.L. 111-024 ; H.R. 4173, Senate Vote 162, 05/20/10, Senate Vote 208, 07/15/10, P.L. 111-203]

**Senator Reid is Fighting to Stop Foreclosures and Keep Nevadans in Their Homes.** Nevada is one of the hardest hit states by the nation’s housing crisis. That is why Senator Reid led the passage of the *Helping Families Save Their Homes Act of 2009*, which helps alleviate the financial pain of millions of Americans victimized by the foreclosure crisis. This law offers incentives for lenders to negotiate loan modifications with borrowers at risk of foreclosure; provides housing counseling resources for borrowers to help prevent foreclosure; allocates resources for advertisements in languages other than English to help eliminate language barriers and prevent mortgage-fraud scammers from preying on AAPI homebuyers; and protects renters who live in foreclosed properties with at least a 90-day notice of eviction. Additionally, Senator Reid urged the Obama Administration to provide additional resources to states hardest hit by the housing crisis, which resulted in the creation of the Housing Finance Agency Innovation Fund for the Hardest Hit Housing Markets (“HFA Hardest Hit Fund”). In the first round of the program, the Administration allocated \$1.5 billion to five states, including Nevada, where the housing prices have fallen more than 20%. The Nevada Housing Division will receive \$102.8 million to create and fund programs to assist unemployed home owners who owe more than their home is now worth. [S.896, Senate Vote 185, 05/06/09; Reid Floor Speech, 05/04/09, P.L. 111-022; Letter to Secretaries Geithner and Donovan, 12/18/09]

**Senator Reid Fought for Nevada's Families By Extending Unemployment Benefits, Providing Food for Families and Children, and Supporting Tax Cuts.** Senator Reid continues to lead the way in securing benefits for the unemployed, providing food for those in need, and lowering the tax burden on Nevada's families.

- ***Extending Unemployment Benefits*** Senator Reid co-sponsored the *Worker, Homeownership, and Business Assistance Act of 2009*, which provides an additional 14 weeks of benefits to unemployed workers in every state and an additional six weeks of benefits to those states hit hardest by unemployment, like Nevada. According to a study by the Economic Policy Institute (EPI), Asian Americans with advanced degrees are more likely to be unemployed (4.8%) than Whites with advanced degrees (3.2 %). Asian Americans with bachelor's degrees are also more likely to be unemployed (7.2%) than Whites with bachelor's degrees (4.7%). Senator Reid has fought to increase weekly benefits by \$25, provide longer benefits for high unemployment states such as Nevada, and continue the program while the economy begins to recover. [H.R. 3548, Senate Vote 334, 11/04/09, P.L. 111-092; Economic Policy Institute; H.R. 3326, Senate Vote 384, 12/19/09, P.L. 111-118; H.R. 4691, Senate Vote 32, 03/02/10, P.L. 111-144; H.R. 4851, Senate Vote 117, 04/15/10, P.L. 111-157]
- ***Providing Food for Families and Children*** These tough economic times have put strain on family budgets, making it hard for some to put food on the table. With the leadership of Senator Reid, the *Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008* (Farm Bill), was enacted with an increase of \$10 billion in new funding for food stamps, called the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). SNAP is the largest food assistance program in the country. In Nevada alone, nearly 150,000 people rely on SNAP to help put food on the table each month. The Recovery Act increased SNAP benefits by about 19% for the next 4 years, eased eligibility requirements for certain jobless adults without dependents, and provided states with extra funding to administer the program. Additionally, as part of the fiscal year 2010 Agriculture Appropriations bill, Senator Reid made sure Nevada is eligible to participate in the federally-reimbursed Afterschool Supper Program. This program allows the state of Nevada to be reimbursed for providing a supper to children up to 18 years old who would otherwise go hungry. Senator Reid also championed the passage of the Child Nutrition Act through the Senate. This bill funds free and reduced-price school meals for children who need them, while increasing funding so schools can provide better quality meals and reduce the paperwork for parents to enroll their children in meal programs. [H.R. 2997, Senate Vote 318, 10/08/09, P.L. 111-080; H.R. 6124, Senate Vote 151, 06/18/08; H.R. 1, Senate Vote 64, 02/13/09, P.L. 111-005; S. 3307, Unanimous Consent, 08/05/10]
- ***Supporting Tax Cuts for Workers and Families*** Senator Reid has led the way in easing Nevada's tax burden and providing tax relief for Nevada's families. The Making Work Pay tax credit, enacted as part of the Recovery Act, lowered the tax bills for 95 percent of Nevada workers by as much as \$400 for individuals and \$800 for a married couple. The credit increased the take home pay for 120 million American households for 2009 and 2010. The Recovery Act also made the full Child Tax Credit available to more families, made improvements to the Earned Income Credit, and protected nearly 95,000 Nevada taxpayers who would otherwise have been subject to the AMT in 2009. Senator Reid has also fought to make the tax code fairer for Nevada taxpayers and successfully advocated to extend marriage penalty relief permanently. [H.R. 1, Senate Vote 64, 02/13/09, P.L. 111-005; H.R. 4520, Senate Vote 211, 10/11/04, P.L. 108-357; H.R. 6111, Senate Vote 279, 12/09/06, P.L. 109-432; H.R. 1424, Senate Vote 213, 10/01/08, P.L. 110-343; S.Con.Res.13, Senate Vote 173, 04/29/09]

**Senator Reid Worked Hard to Expand Health Coverage to All Nevadans, Including Children and Low-Income Families, Including Children and Low-Income Families and Understands Health Concerns Affecting the AAPI Community.** Senator Reid strengthened local and federal health care programs to ensure Nevadans receive quality care. He also understands the unique health care concerns affecting the Asian American and Pacific Islander community.

- ***Strengthening Nevada Check Up*** Senator Reid was instrumental in the passage of the *Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIP)*, known in Nevada as Nevada Check Up. CHIP was created to target low-income families who do not qualify for Medicaid, but are unable to afford private insurance. Under CHIP, an additional \$35 billion was invested over 5 years to strengthen the program's financing. There are currently over 8 million children in the United States uninsured, including 12,500 Asian American children in Nevada. This legislation extends health insurance to 4 million children who would otherwise lack coverage, including as many as 121,000 in Nevada. [H.R. 2, Senate Vote 31, 01/29/09, P.L. 111-003; Kaiser Family Foundation]
- ***Championing Comprehensive Health Insurance Reform*** Senator Reid led the charge for major health care reform, resulting in the passage of the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act* and the *Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act*. 18.7% of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are without health insurance, the lowest rates of being uninsured. However, this uninsured rate varies among Asian subgroups, at 13% for Vietnamese, 13.6% for Filipino, 12% for Chinese, and 13.2% for other Asian groups. Asian Americans have infrequent medical visits; may struggle with language or cultural barriers in accessing health care; are most at risk for certain types of cancer, heart disease, and stroke; and face a high prevalence of certain diseases, such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, Hepatitis B, and others. The new law lowers costs; eliminates insurance companies' discriminatory practices; expands Medicaid eligibility; has a strong focus on minority health; prohibits denial of coverage based on pre-existing conditions, and encouraging businesses to provide health care benefits. [H.R. 3590, Senate Vote 396, 12/24/09, P.L. 111-148; H.R. 4872, Senate Vote 105, 03/25/10, P.L. 111-152; Kaiser Family Foundation]
- ***Disproportionate Health Concerns Affecting the AAPI Community*** Senator Reid understands that Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have unique health care needs and challenges, which vary among Asian subgroups; making generalizations about this population difficult and demonstrating the need for health disparities data collection by country of origin and ethnicity. The Asian American and Pacific Islander community is disproportionately affected by Hepatitis B and liver cancer, the fastest growing cancer in the United States. Recognizing the need to support innovative research that may lead to new intervention and treatment methods for these diseases, Senator Reid has consistently supported increasing federal funding to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH). [H.R. 1, Senate Vote 64, 02/13/09, P.L. 111-005; H.R. 810, Senate Vote 206, 07/18/06; S. 5, Senate Vote 127, 04/11/07; H.R. 1256, Senate Vote 207, 06/11/09, P.L. 111-031; H.R. 1157, Unanimous Consent, 09/27/08, P.L. 110-354; H.R. 1553, Unanimous Consent, 07/16/08, P.L. 110-285; H.R. 1132, Unanimous Consent, 03/29/07, P.L. 110-018]

### **Senator Reid is a Leader for Comprehensive Immigration Reform That is Tough, Fair, and Practical.**

Senator Reid believes in tough, fair, and practical immigration reform that protects our economic and national security. Reform should include strong and effective enforcement of our borders, tough sanctions against employers who hire immigrants who are not authorized to work, reform of our legal immigration, and a requirement that immigrants here illegally register with the government, learn English, pay their taxes, pass criminal background checks, pay penalties for being here unlawfully, and go to the back of the line. Reform should also reunite and keep together Nevada's families. He believes that comprehensive immigration reform should strengthen our borders against terrorists, drug traffickers, and illegal entrants, while also making our immigration laws more realistic so that they can more effectively be enforced. Immigration reform should protect and strengthen the U.S. economy, while safeguarding the rights and wages of American workers. Senator Reid helped to ensure Senate passage of a comprehensive immigration reform bill in 2006, and, when that bill was not enacted because the House and Senate could not agree on a path forward, he fought hard to pass an immigration reform bill again in 2007.

- **Family Reunification** Senator Reid has strongly supported family reunification and the elimination of the long family backlogs and has opposed provisions that would make it more difficult for families to stay together. He has cosponsored and supported amendments to ensure that U.S. citizens who have played by the rules and submitted applications for adult children and siblings do not lose their place in line; eliminate the family backlogs within an 8-year period; allow green card holders who are playing by the rules to be more quickly reunited with their minor children and spouses (instead of waiting five years or more); protect the ability of U.S. citizens to petition for their parents to join them in the United States; and enable Congress to reconsider in five years any changes made to our current legal immigration system in order to assess the impact on family-based immigration. [S.Amdt. 1194 to S. 1348, Senate Vote 193, 06/06/07; S. Amdt. 1183 to S. 1348, Senate Vote 195, 06/06/07; S. Amdt. 1199 to S. 1348, Considered 05/24/07; S. Amdt. 1202 to S. 1348, Senate Vote 202, 06/06/07]
- **Filipino Veteran Immigration Backlogs** Senator Reid has cosponsored and supported efforts to reunite aging Filipino World War II veterans with their children. These veterans fought valiantly for the United States alongside American soldiers and are now U.S. citizens, have been waiting years to be reunited with their children who have been stuck in long immigration backlogs. [S. 671, Introduced 02/16/07; S.Amdt. 1186 to S. 1348, Senate Vote 176, 05/24/07; S.Amdt. 4029 to S. 2611, Voice Vote, 05/18/06]
- **The DREAM Act** Senator Reid is also a strong supporter and original cosponsor of the *Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act* (DREAM Act), which would provide students brought to the U.S. illegally years ago through no fault of their own, the opportunity to earn conditional permanent residency if they arrived in the U.S. before the age of 16, graduate from a U.S. high school or complete a GED, have good moral character, and have been in the country continuously for at least five years prior to the bill's enactment. Their status would be made permanent if they go to college or serve in the military for two years. Through his position as Majority Leader, Senator Reid was able to bring the DREAM Act before the full Senate for a vote. The bill received bipartisan majority support, but did not receive the 60 votes necessary to overcome a filibuster by its opponents. As a down payment for immigration reform this September, Senator Reid attempted to bring the DREAM Act up for a vote again, announcing that he intended to offer it as an amendment to the Department of Defense Authorization bill. Unfortunately, every Senate Republican voted against even allowing the Senate to proceed to considering the defense bill, preventing the DREAM Act from being offered as an amendment. [S. 2205, Senate Vote 394, 10/24/07; S. 729, Introduced 03/26/09 ; S. 3454, Senate Vote 238, 09/21/10]

**Senator Reid Understands the Important Role Education Plays Within Families and Communities and Has Supported Many Initiatives to Increase Educational Opportunities for AAPIs.** Senator Reid has worked hard to help make college more affordable for all Nevadans. Under Senator Reid's leadership, the *College Cost Reduction and Access Act* was passed and signed into law. It provided over \$20 billion in new student aid and benefits—including increasing the maximum Pell Grant, cutting student loan rates in half, and expanding loan forgiveness options—for college students. In addition, the recently enacted *Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010* will make college accessible by transforming student loan programs. The new law: increases the maximum Pell Grant award; invests \$750 million in college access and other supports for students; makes federal loans more affordable for borrowers to repay; invests \$2.55 billion in minority-serving institutions; and as of July 1, 2010, all new federal student lending will be originated through the stable, effective, and cost-efficient Direct Loan program. Senator Reid also worked to establish the \$2,500 American Opportunity Tax Credit through the Recovery Act, providing students and families with a tax credit for college tuition and other related expenses. [H.R. 2669, Senate Vote 326, 09/07/07; H.R. 4872, Senate Vote 105, 03/25/10; H.R. 1, Senate Vote 64, 02/13/09, P.L. 111-005]

**Senator Reid Has Long Been an Advocate for Civil Rights Initiatives and for Ensuring Equality Across Society.** Senator Reid continues to support fairness in our society by ensuring a fair census, fair wages, and fair treatment for all members of our nation.

- ***Ensuring a Fair Census*** Senator Reid believes that having an accurate Census count is critical for Nevada and the nation. Every Census, since the first in 1790, mandates that every person living in the U.S. be counted including citizens and non-citizens alike. Senator Reid has fought over the past 3 decades to ensure an accurate and fair Census count happens despite partisan attempts to intimidate AAPIs and immigrants from being counted.

[S. Amdt. 255 to S. 358, Senate Vote 114, 07/13/89; H.R. 2847, Senate Vote 335, 11/05/09]

- ***Fighting Against Wage Discrimination*** Senator Reid led the effort to pass the *Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act*, legislation that restores civil rights protections for workers who face discrimination based on age, race, gender, national origin, religion, or disability. For Asian women, their earnings are 82.3% of Asian male earnings. After having worked on the bill despite resistance from an unsupportive Bush administration, Senator Reid made passage a priority in 2009, clearing the *Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act* for White House approval just a week after President Obama took office. Senator Reid is also an original cosponsor of the *Paycheck Fairness Act*, which would revise and strengthen the *Equal Pay Act of 1963* and further target pay discrepancies in the work place. He recently reintroduced this important legislation in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress. [S. 181, Senate Vote 14, 01/27/09, P.L. 111-002; Institute for Women’s Policy Research; S. 182, Introduced 01/08/09; S. 3772, Introduced 09/13/10]
- ***Strengthening Hate Crime Prevention*** Senator Reid helped lead the passage of the *Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act*. This law protects Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and other Americans from heinous and violent crimes based on bigotry and prejudice. This new law expands the 1969 federal hate crime law, which already protects people targeted because of race, color, religion, or national origin, to include assault motivated by gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability. [S.Amdt. 1511 to H.R. 2647, Senate Vote 233, 7/16/09]

**Senator Reid Celebrates Asian-American and Pacific Islander Heritage.**

May is designated Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and Senator Reid takes this opportunity to encourage all Americans to celebrate the great contributions of the AAPI community. He has co-hosted summits with the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus and spoken at several celebrations. From the colorful dragon parades and traditional dancing, the Lunar New Year shares the spirit of the upcoming year. Every year Senator Reid celebrates by submitting a Congressional Record statement honoring this significant AAPI festivity.

**Senator Reid Fought to Pass Legislation Honoring Filipino World War II Veterans.** After waiting for six decades, Filipino veterans have been given the recognition and reparation promised to them. Senator Reid was instrumental in passing legislation that brings honor to Filipino veterans who served during World War II under the American flag by providing due compensation for their service. Under the Recovery Act, Filipino veterans will be granted \$15,000 for U.S. citizens and \$9,000 for non-U.S. citizens. [S.Amdt. 570 to H.R. 1, Senate Vote 64, 02/13/09, P.L.111-005, ]

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