



SENATOR HARRY REID, MAJORITY LEADER CARING FOR NEVADA'S CHILDREN



Senator Reid has worked hard to pass legislation that will benefit Nevada's children—and thus, Nevada's future. His efforts have already improved the quality of life for children across the board: from increased funding for education, to health care, to lowered taxes for hard-working families. With per-pupil spending in Nevada near the bottom of national rankings and dropout rates at crisis levels, Senator Reid fought to pass the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which brought Nevada almost half a billion dollars in funding for education. He championed landmark health insurance reform legislation that will lower costs, create greater choices, and improve the quality of health care for Nevada families. Senator Reid has also made sure that children from low-income families have the financial assistance: from counseling, to school supplies, to meals—that they need in order to be successful. Senator Reid will continue to fight so that Nevada's future leaders have the resources they deserve.

Senator Reid Secured Funding for Nevada's Foster and Adopted Children. Senator Reid supported the enactment of the *Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act* in 2008, which helped Nevada's foster children stay with responsible family members and provided more support for those family caregivers. Senator Reid also supported the enactment of the *Fair Access Foster Care Act of 2005*, which allowed for foster care maintenance payments to private for-profit agencies. Through the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act*, Senator Reid worked to ensure that children aging out of foster care receive Medicaid coverage until the age of 26. [H.R. 6839, Unanimous Consent, 09/22/08, P.L. 110-351; S. 1894, Unanimous Consent, 10/19/05, P.L. 109-113; H.R. 3590, Senate Vote 396, 12/24/09, P.L. 111-148]

Senator Reid Secured Funding for Needy Families. Senator Reid has worked to ensure the continual extension of the TANF Supplemental Grants, which

HIGHLIGHTS OF SENATOR REID'S CHILDREN'S ISSUES RECORD

- ★ Senator Reid Secured Funding for Nevada's Foster and Adopted Children
- ★ Senator Reid Secured Funding for Needy Families
- ★ Senator Reid Secured Funding for Nevada's Schools, Colleges, and Universities During the Economic Downturn to Prevent Teacher Layoffs, Reduced Services, and Increased Tuition
- ★ Senator Reid Led Passage of the Education Jobs Fund to Help States Avert Further Layoffs During the 2010-2011 School Year
- ★ Senator Reid Will Ensure that No Child Left Behind Reauthorization Works for Nevada's Schools and Students
- ★ Senator Reid is Working to Address the Dropout Crisis
- ★ Senator Reid Fought to Increase Funding for School Modernization, Early Education and Other Essential Programs, Math and Science Education, and Special Education Services.
- ★ Senator Reid Worked to Bring More Highly-Qualified Teachers to Nevada
- ★ Senator Reid Led the Fight to Reauthorize and Improve the Children's Health Insurance Program, Known as Nevada Check Up
- ★ Senator Reid Led the Effort to Pass Landmark Health Insurance Reform Legislation Providing Coverage to More Than 600,000 Uninsured Nevadans
- ★ Senator Reid Strongly Supported Legislation to Protect Our Children and the Public from the Harmful Effects of Tobacco Use
- ★ Senator Reid Made Sure Nevada Can Access the Federally-Reimbursable Afterschool Supper Program to Provide Meals to Kids Who Might Otherwise Go Hungry
- ★ Senator Reid Worked to Provide Funding to Help More Homeless Children Enroll, Attend, and Succeed in School
- ★ Senator Reid Has Consistently Lowered Taxes for Nevada's Working Families
- ★ Senator Reid Championed School Meals Legislation

sends an additional \$3.7 million per year to Nevada to provide social services and financial assistance to low-income needy families with children. Last year Senator Reid was instrumental in the creation of the TANF Emergency Contingency Fund (ECF) through his leadership in passing the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* (Recovery Act). The ECF provides Nevada with an additional \$15.3 million to provide social services and financial assistance to low-income needy families with children. [H.R. 3672, Unanimous Consent, 09/15/05, P.L. 109-068; H.R. 6331, Senate Vote 177, 07/15/08, P.L. 110-275; H.R. 1, Senate Vote 64, 02/13/09, P.L. 111-005]

Senator Reid Secured Funding for Nevada’s Schools, Colleges, and Universities During the Economic Downturn to Prevent Teacher Layoffs, Reduced Services, and Increased Tuition. Last year, Senator Reid shepherded passage of the Recovery Act, which provided nearly a half a billion dollars in funding directly to Nevada’s schools, colleges, and universities. These funds were responsible for saving several thousand educator jobs and creating hundreds more. They also helped prevent increased class sizes, a reduction in special education services, and the loss of other essential school services. [H.R. 1, Senate Vote 64, 02/13/09, P.L. 111-005]

Senator Reid Led Passage of the Education Jobs Fund to Help States Avert Further Layoffs During the 2010-2011 School Year. While the economy has shown signs of recovery, many states continue to face challenging budget situations. In fact, school districts in Nevada and all across the country faced the very real prospect of having to lay off thousands of teachers as the new school year began. Senator Reid led the Senate in passing legislation to help avert these layoffs by providing \$10 billion to assist states and local school districts retain or rehire teachers. As a result of this bill, Nevada schools received over \$80 million in assistance, which will help preserve as many as 1,400 teachers across our state. [H.R. 1586, Senate Vote 228, 08/05/10, P.L. 111-226]

Senator Reid Will Ensure that No Child Left Behind Reauthorization Works for Nevada’s Schools and Students. The Senate and House education committees are currently working on ways to improve the *No Child Left Behind Act* – which is now referred to by its original name, the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act*. As the reauthorization process moves forward, Senator Reid will continue to work with Nevada’s educators to make the law work better for our schools, teachers, and students.

Senator Reid is Working to Address the Dropout Crisis. In Nevada, nearly one-third of students who enter the ninth grade do not graduate four years later. To say that this is a crisis is an understatement. Senator Reid introduced the *Graduation Promise Act*, which would create a fund to target the high schools across the country with graduation rates under 60 percent. These schools account for nearly half of all dropouts nationwide, and this legislation would help them implement effective dropout prevention strategies and interventions. Senator Reid has worked to include these provisions in the reauthorization of No Child Left Behind. [S. 1698, Introduced 09/23/09]

Senator Reid Fought to Increase Funding for School Modernization, Early Education and Other Essential Programs, Math and Science Education, and Special Education Services. Senator Reid is working to innovate and modernize Nevada’s middle and high schools. He helped secure millions in funding for essential programs in Nevada’s K-12 schools and championed legislation to improve math and science education and increase the federal commitment to research. Senator Reid also fought to ensure that the federal share of special education costs is at its highest level ever.

- Senator Reid is Fighting to Innovate and Modernize Our Middle and High Schools.*** Last year, nearly 20,000 Nevada students did not graduate from high school – the lost lifetime earnings in Nevada for this class total over \$5 billion. Senator Reid has met with educators and school leaders from across Nevada to determine why so many students continue to drop out of school. Among the challenges identified were curriculum that often lacks relevance to students’ lives, large and impersonal high schools, and a shortage of guidance counselors. To help address these challenges, Senator Reid introduced the *Secondary School Innovation Fund Act* to provide grants to encourage middle and high schools to find innovative ways to improve student achievement and increase the graduation rate. [S. 968, Introduced 05/04/09]
- Senator Reid Expanded Access to Quality Early Education Programs for More Nevada Children.*** Senator Reid helped lead passage of the *Head Start for School Readiness Act* to improve and expand Head Start and allow thousands more children to take advantage of this vital program. He also ensured that the Recovery Act included significant investments in early education programs that resulted in nearly \$6.5 million for additional staff for Nevada’s Head Start and Early Head Start programs. [H.R. 1429, Senate Vote 409, 11/14/07, P.L. 110-134; H.R. 1105, Voice Vote, 03/10/09, P.L. 111-008; H.R. 3288, Senate Vote 374, 12/13/09, P.L. 111-117; H.R. 1, Senate Vote 64, 02/13/09, P.L. 111-005]
- Senator Reid Worked to Bring Millions in Funding for Essential Programs in Nevada’s K-12 Schools.*** While funding cannot solve all of the problems in education, in order to ensure that our students are ready to compete in today’s economy, Nevada cannot continue to remain near the bottom in per pupil funding. To help make up for low levels of state support, Senator Reid has and will continue to secure federal funding to assist Nevada schools. In just the last few years, he has secured over \$20 million in funding for education technology, afterschool programs, gifted education, expanded math and science curriculum, charter schools, dropout prevention programs, school counselors, and other important needs in our K-12 schools. [H.R. 3288, Senate Vote 374, 12/13/09, P.L. 111-117; H.R. 1105, Voice Vote, 03/10/09, P.L. 111-008; H.R. 2764, Senate Vote 441, 12/18/07, P.L. 110-161; H.R. 3010, Unanimous Consent, 12/21/05, P.L. 109-149; H.R. 4818, Senate Vote 215, 11/20/04, P.L. 108-447; H.R. 2673, Senate Vote 3, 01/22/04, P.L. 108-199; H.J.RES. 2, Senate Vote 34, 02/13/03, P.L. 108-007]
- Senator Reid Championed Bipartisan Legislation to Improve Math and Science Education and Increase the Federal Commitment to Research.*** We must ensure that students and teachers across Nevada and our nation are prepared to continue leading the world in innovation, research, and technology. Towards this end, Senator Reid helped lead passage of the *America COMPETES Act* during the 110th Congress to improve math and science education and put the U.S. on a path to double investment in the major federal research agencies. [S. 761, Senate Vote 146, 04/25/07; H.R. 2272, Unanimous Consent, 08/02/07, P.L. 110-069]
- Senator Reid Helped Boost Funding for Special Education Services to the Highest Level Ever.*** Improving educational results for children with disabilities has been a top priority for Senator Reid. In 2004, Congress passed the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act*, which called for the federal government to provide 40 percent of the funding towards the cost of special education. After several years of a decreasing federal share, through the Recovery Act, Senator Reid helped ensure that the federal share of special education costs is at its highest level ever, resulting in nearly \$75 million for special education programs in Nevada’s schools. The Fiscal Year 2011 Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill included a near half billion dollar increase from last year and Senator Reid is committed to passing this important bill. [H.R. 1350, Unanimous Consent, 11/19/04, P.L. 108-446; H.R. 1, Senate Vote 64, 02/13/09, P.L. 111-005; S. 3686, Introduced 08/02/10]

Senator Reid Worked to Bring More Highly-Qualified Teachers to Nevada. Our children deserve great teachers in every classroom. As one of the fastest-growing states in the nation, Nevada has a tremendous need for additional qualified teachers. To address persistent teaching shortages:

- ***Senator Reid Worked to Bring Teach for America to Clark County.*** Senator Reid's leadership was essential in partnering Teach for America, a nonprofit group committed to educational equity, with the Clark County School District, which resulted in several hundred more highly-qualified teachers in the district.
- ***Senator Reid Also Fought for Legislation to Incentivize More College Graduates to Enter Teaching.*** The *College Cost Reduction and Access Act* expanded loan forgiveness programs for graduates who spend 10 years in a public service profession, including teaching. One of the reasons many college graduates do not enter the teaching profession is because of high student loan debt. This legislation also established TEACH grants, which provide grants of \$4,000 per year for undergraduate students who commit to teaching in high-need school districts. [H.R. 2669, Senate Vote 326, 09/07/07, P.L. 110-084]
- ***Senator Reid Also Secured Funding for Teacher Preparation Programs to Help Address Teacher Shortages in Nevada's School Districts.***
 - The Recovery Act included over \$100 million in grants, which will help Nevada address teacher shortages and provide new routes to teaching for jobless individuals looking to enter the teaching field. [H.R. 1, Senate Vote 64, 02/13/09, P.L. 111-005]
 - Senator Reid included funding for distance education teacher programs to provide teachers in Nevada's rural school districts greater access to teacher preparation and professional development programs. [H.R. 1105, Voice Vote, 03/10/09, P.L. 111-008]
- ***Senator Reid Ensured that the Recovery Act Included Significant Investments in Early Education Programs.*** This resulted in over \$6.5 million for additional staff for Nevada's Head Start and Early Head Start programs. [H.R. 1, Senate Vote 64, 02/13/09, P.L. 111-005]

Senator Reid Led the Fight to Reauthorize and Improve the Children's Health Insurance Program, Known as Nevada Check Up. Access to high quality and affordable health care is important for all Nevadans, but especially for our growing children. Senator Reid helped strengthen the Nevada Check Up program by leading the Senate in passing the *Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009*. This long overdue reauthorization ensures health care for thousands of children across Nevada whose parents earn too much for Medicaid, but not enough to afford private insurance. Thanks to this expansion, over 37,000 additional children in Nevada are eligible to get the doctor visits and medicines they need when they are sick and the checkups they need to stay well. The bill provides \$100 million in new grants to state outreach and enrollment efforts and adds \$200 million in grants to states to improve dental coverage for children. [H.R. 2, Senate Vote 31, 01/29/09, P.L. 111-003; Families USA, January 2009]

Senator Reid Led the Effort to Pass Landmark Health Insurance Reform Legislation Providing Coverage to More Than 600,000 Uninsured Nevadans. Senator Reid worked tirelessly to pass legislation that will lower costs, create greater choices, and improve the quality of health care for American families. Signed into law on March 23, 2010, this landmark legislation will ensure improved health care quality and coverage for Nevada's children. [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]

- ***No Pre-Existing Condition Exclusions for Nevada's Kids*** The new law requires that insurers cease the practice of excluding coverage for pre-existing conditions for children effective for policy or plan years starting on or after September 23, 2010. Insurers have indicated their willingness to comply with the new rules this year to end denials of coverage to kids because of pre-existing conditions.
- ***Coverage for Children on Their Parents' Policies Up to Age 26*** The new law requires insurance plans that offer dependent coverage to extend that coverage until adult children are 26 years old for policy or plan years starting on or after September 23, 2010. More than 65 insurers, including dominant insurers in Nevada, have agreed to voluntarily continue coverage before the September deadline. As many as 218,000 young adults in Nevada could benefit from this coverage expansion.
- ***Reauthorization and Extension of Nevada Check Up*** Senator Reid led the efforts to reauthorize the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) last year, and he was instrumental in adding an additional two years to Nevada Check Up in health reform legislation. The new law also provides states with additional funding to ensure access, outreach, and enrollment. Nevada's CHIP program covers more than 22,000 children each month. [H.R. 2, Senate Vote 31, 01/29/09, P.L. 111-003]
- ***Better Benefits for Kids*** The new law requires coverage of basic pediatric services under all health plans and includes oral and vision care. Under the new law, children will have access to free recommended preventive services in their health insurance plans. The new law also develops health care quality priorities for children and promotes children's quality measurement and reporting to improve the care of Nevada's children.
- ***Improved Access to Pediatricians*** The new law expands the health care workforce, including pediatricians, pediatric nurse practitioners, specialists in pediatrics, and pediatric oral health professionals, to ensure that children have access to quality primary care. The law requires that insurers allow parents to select their child's pediatrician from among any participating provider, and provides increased Medicaid payments for primary care in 2013 and 2014.
- ***Initiatives to Combat Childhood Obesity*** The new law provides \$25 million in funding for the Childhood Obesity Demonstration Project which was established through legislation Senator Reid successfully passed last year. [HR 2, Senate Vote 31, 01/29/09, P.L. 111-003]
- ***School Based Health Clinics (SBHCs)*** The new law provides an emergency \$200 million appropriation for SBHCs' construction and equipment needs and an authorization for an SBHC grant program for operations. These funds will ensure that millions of children and adolescents gain access to quality health care without concern for students' ability to pay.
- ***Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Programs*** The new law creates and funds a \$1.5 billion grant program to develop and implement maternal, infant, and early childhood visitation programs targeted at reducing infant and maternal mortality by improving prenatal, maternal, and newborn health, child health and development, parenting skills, school readiness, juvenile delinquency, and family economic self-sufficiency.
- ***Emergency Services for Children*** The new law reauthorizes the Wakefield Emergency Medical Services for Children Program to continue improvements in emergency care for children.

Senator Reid Strongly Supported Legislation to Protect Our Children and the Public from the Harmful Effects of Tobacco Use. Tobacco use in the United States is harming our citizens, adding billions of dollars to our health care costs, and reducing our economic productivity. Nearly 90 percent of smokers begin as children and are addicted by the time they become adults. Sadly, the pattern of tobacco use by children mirrors that of adults, with 20 percent of high school students classified as current smokers, or 3.5 million children. This is why Senator Reid supported the *Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act*. This legislation, which is now law, grants the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) the authority to regulate the manufacturing, marketing, and sale of tobacco. It also gives the FDA the legal authority necessary to reduce youth smoking, prevent the sale of tobacco to minors, help current smokers quit, reduce the toxicity of tobacco products, and stop the tobacco industry from deceiving the public with their misleading claims about the dangers of using tobacco products. [2007 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey; Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, 01/26/10; H.R. 1256, Senate Vote 207, 06/11/09, P.L. 111-031]

Senator Reid Championed Childhood Cancer Legislation. Each year, over 12,000 American children are diagnosed with cancer, and more than 2,000 of them end up succumbing to this devastating disease. Senator Reid cosponsored legislation, which is now law, that expands research programs aimed at preventing childhood cancer. It also creates a national registry to track pediatric cancer; thereby allowing researchers to contact patients quickly, enroll them in research studies, and follow up with them over time. This legislation will deliver much needed hope and support to children and their families who are battling cancer, and more resources for crucial pediatric cancer research programs. [H.R. 1553, Unanimous Consent, 07/16/08, P.L. 110-285]

Senator Reid Established the Federally-Reimbursable Afterschool Supper Program for Hungry Children in Nevada. Senator Reid included a provision in the fiscal year 2010 Agriculture Appropriations bill making Nevada one of 14 states authorized to operate the federally-reimbursable Afterschool Supper Program, which provides meals for children up to 18 years old who may otherwise go hungry. The Food Research and Action Center estimates that an Afterschool Supper Program serving 50 children for five nights a week during the school year could be reimbursed more than \$22,000 by the federal government.

The Afterschool Supper Program is run by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) under the Child and Adult Care Food Program, and it is operated by the Nevada Department of Education. In addition to cash payments, participating supper providers also have access to food provided through USDA's commodity program. Suppers are served in group settings, so there are no applications for parents or guardians to fill out. [H.R. 2997, Senate Vote 318, 10/08/09, P.L. 111-080]

Senator Reid Worked to Provide Funding to Help More Homeless Children Enroll, Attend, and Succeed in School. The Recovery Act included \$70 million for the McKinney-Vento program, the primary federal initiative for youth homelessness. Nevada schools, which have seen an increase in the number of homeless youth, received an additional \$525,000 in McKinney-Vento funding. School districts across the state used these funds to provide homeless students with a variety of support, such as tutoring, school supplies, and counseling, among others, to help maintain some stability with their education. [H.R. 1, Senate Vote 64, 02/13/09, P.L. 111-005]

Senator Reid Has Consistently Lowered Taxes for Nevada's Working Families. Nevadans and Americans are paying less in taxes thanks to Senator Reid's work in Congress. Senator Reid has led the way in easing Nevada's tax burden and providing tax relief for Nevada's families.

- ***Senator Reid Provided Tax Relief for Working Americans through the Making Work Pay Tax Credit.*** 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. [H.R. 1, Senate Vote 64, 02/13/09, P.L. 111-005]
- ***Senator Reid Fought to Make the Tax Code Fairer for Nevada Taxpayers.*** Senator Reid fought in 2004 to reinstate the deduction for state and local sales taxes as a matter of fairness for states like Nevada that choose not to impose an income tax. The deduction was reinstated on a temporary basis and through the efforts of Senator Reid has been extended for each year thereafter. [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]
- ***Senator Reid Made the Child Tax Credit Available to More Families.*** The Recovery Act made the full Child Tax Credit available to more families for 2009 and 2010 by lowering the earnings threshold from \$8,500 to \$3,000. [H.R. 1, Senate Vote 64, 02/13/09, 111-005]
- ***Senator Reid Expanded the Earned Income Tax Credit to Help Working Families.*** The Recovery Act provided tax relief for working families by making improvements to the Earned Income Tax Credit. The Act increased the credit to 45% for families with three or more children and provided relief from the “marriage penalty” by increasing the income level at which married couples begin to lose the credit. [H.R. 1, Senate Vote 64, 02/13/09, P.L. 111-005]
- ***Senator Reid Was Instrumental in Ensuring Tip Tax Agreements for Nevada Workers.*** These are voluntary agreements between the IRS, the employer, and tipped employees that make it easier for employees to comply with the law and avoid time-consuming and burdensome IRS audits. [Las Vegas Review Journal, 04/11/03]
- ***Senator Reid Supports Relief from the Alternative Minimum Tax.*** The Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) was originally enacted in response to reports that some wealthy individuals paid no federal income tax. However, the AMT was not indexed for inflation and an increasing number of middle-income families will be subject to this tax if no action is taken to provide relief. The Recovery Act protected the nearly 95,000 Nevada taxpayers who would otherwise have been subject to for the AMT in 2009. In addition, the budget passed by the 111th Congress extends AMT relief for an additional three years. [H.R. 1, Senate Vote 64, 02/13/09, 111-005; Senate Vote 185, S. 896, 05/06/09, P.L. 111-022]
- ***Senator Reid Advocated for Marriage Penalty Relief.*** Many families are affected by the marriage penalty. In certain situations, married couples pay higher taxes than they would if they were two individuals filing separately. This “marriage penalty” was substantially reduced for most taxpayers in 2001, but that relief expires at the end of 2010. The budget passed by the 111th Congress extends marriage penalty relief permanently. [S.Con.Res. 13, Senate Vote 173, 04/29/09]

Senator Reid Championed School Meals Legislation. In Nevada there are 100,000 children living in poverty who don’t know where they will get their next meal. The reality is sobering — more than 60,000 women, infants and children participate in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, also known as the WIC Program. Science and good sense tell us that kids need healthy meals to succeed in their classes, be active and lead healthy lives. The recession has taken a toll on the schools and local governments that provide a nutritious breakfast and lunch to school children and other programs that help

families put good food on the table. Senator Reid championed the *Healthy and Hunger-Free Kids Act*. This bipartisan legislation passed the Senate unanimously and reauthorizes child nutrition programs like School Lunch, School Breakfast, afterschool and summer meal service, and the WIC program for pregnant women and infants. This is a good bill that helps children, schools, and local governments by providing nutritious meals to hungry children, reducing paperwork and administrative costs for schools, and increasing the federal reimbursement rate for school meals so that local governments do not have to absorb the increased cost of school meals. [S. 3307, Unanimous Consent, 08/05/10]

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