



# SENATOR HARRY REID, MAJORITY LEADER FIGHTING FOR NEVADA'S LATINO COMMUNITY



*Senator Reid has long been a friend to Nevada's Latino community and as Senate Majority Leader, has advocated tirelessly on issues important to Latinos across the nation. Latinos comprise approximately a quarter of Nevada's population and that number continues to grow. Nevada Latinos are embedded in the economic and cultural landscape that makes Nevada a great place to live in and visit. Senator Reid led the charge for historic health care reform that will extend health care to millions and will greatly benefit Latinos in Nevada who have been disproportionately impacted by the health care crisis. Senator Reid secured funding for Nevada's schools and continued to fight discriminatory practices in schools and workplaces. He has also worked to fix our economy by creating jobs and addressing predatory practices by credit card companies. Senator Reid understands the contributions made by Latinos to the Silver State and values equal opportunity and prosperity of all Nevadans.*

**Senator Reid Understands the Important Role Education Plays Within Families and Communities and Has Supported Many Initiatives to Increase Educational Opportunities for Latinos.** Senator Reid has worked hard to strengthen early childhood education and help make college more affordable for all Nevadans.

- **Strengthening Head Start** Senator Reid helped pass the *Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act*, which expands access and eligibility to comprehensive early childhood education through Head Start for tens of thousands of low-income children. More than one-third of all eligible Head Start children across the country are Latino, and in Nevada, that statistic rises to more than half. [H.R. 1429, Senate Vote 409, 11/14/07; P.L. 110-134]
- **Helping to Make College Affordable** Under Senator Reid's leadership, the *College Cost Reduction and Access Act* was passed and signed into law. It provides over \$20 billion in new student aid and benefits—including increasing the maximum Pell Grant, cutting student loan rates in half,

## HIGHLIGHTS SENATOR REID'S LATINO RECORD

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

and expanding loan forgiveness options—for college students, 11% of whom are Latino. The bill also provides \$200 million for Hispanic-serving institutions. 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 Hispanic-serving and other 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, 09/7/07; H.R. 4872, Senate Vote 105, 03/25/10; H.R. 1, Senate Vote 64, 02/13/09, P.L. 111-005]

### **Senator Reid 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.

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. 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 Worked Hard to Expand Health Coverage to All Nevadans, Including Children and Low-Income Families.** Senator Reid strengthened local and federal health care programs to ensure Nevadans receive quality care.

- ***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, and over 62,000 of them are Latino 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, 1/29/09 ; 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*. Latinos are less likely to have health insurance than any other ethnic group. Over 14 million Latinos are uninsured nationwide, and there are up to 194,000 Latino Nevadans without health insurance. Because of health insurance reform, Latinos in Nevada will enjoy quality, affordable health care. 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]

**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 received fair pay, and ensure protection for consumers.

- **Creating Jobs** Senator Reid shepherd 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 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 ]
- **Raising the Minimum Wage** In 2009, over 3.5 million people, in the United States were paid at or below the minimum wage – 17.4% of whom were Hispanic. 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. [Bureau of Labor Statistics; H.R. 2, Senate Vote 42, 02/01/07, P.L. 110-028]



Nevada Senator Harry Reid meets with national Hispanic leaders to discuss Judge Sonia Sotomayor's nomination to the United States Supreme Court on June 4, 2009.

- ***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. Latino families have especially fallen victim to unjust credit card guidelines. Almost 13% of Latinos pay more than a 20% annual percentage rate (APR) on their credit cards. Although only 58% of Latinos own a credit card compared to 73% of Whites, 48.4% of Latinos carry debt compared to only 46.1% of Whites. In his fight to put consumers first, 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 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. Nationwide, the Latino unemployment rate has approximately 13% with nearly 3 million Latinos out of work. 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; ; 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 a strain on family budgets, making it hard for some to put food on the table. Research shows 20% of Hispanic households experience food insecurity; that is, they are unable to afford quality food or sufficient amounts of food. 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 2 million people rely on SNAP to help put food on the table. 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. The 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 has been recognized by major Latino civil rights organizations for his leadership and commitment to advancing issues important to the Latino community in Nevada and across the nation.

**National Council of La Raza (NCLR)  
2001 Capitol Awards**

**League of United Latin American  
Citizens (LULAC) 2007**

**National Council of La Raza (NCLR)  
2010 Capitol Awards**

**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; and 1 in 12 loans to Latinos will end in foreclosure. 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 Spanish to help eliminate language barriers and prevent mortgage-fraud scammers from preying on Latino 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 homeowners who owe more than their home is now worth. [S.896, Senate Vote 185, 5/6/09; Reid Floor Speech, 5/4/09 , P.L. 111-022; Letter to Secretaries Geithner and Donovan, 12/18/09]

**Senator Reid Has Long Been an Advocate for Civil Rights and 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 citizen and non-citizen alike. Senator Reid has fought over the past 3 decades to ensure an accurate and fair Census count happens despite partisan attempts to intimidate Latinos 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. 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 workplace. 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; 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 Latinos and other Americans from heinous and violent crimes based on bigotry and prejudice. This new law expands 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, 07/16/09]

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