



SENATOR HARRY REID, MAJORITY LEADER FIGHTING FOR RURAL NEVADA



Senator Harry Reid understands the unique challenges and opportunities that face Nevada’s rural residents. That is why Senator Reid has always been committed to help improve the quality of life for everyone who lives in rural Nevada communities. He has always worked hard to promote economic development, expand and improve rural health care services, support education, enhance the environment, and improve transportation services in these communities.

Senator Reid has worked to bring over \$900 million in federal funding to Nevada’s rural counties. He has procured more than \$48 million over the last ten years to help prevent wildfires and invasive species infestations, and to mitigate the damage they have caused to Nevada’s ecosystems and watersheds. Whether it is fire, invasive weeds, or the health and sustainability of wildlife populations, Senator Reid realizes that Nevada’s rural areas are calling for help.

Senator Reid Secured Funding to Provide Rural and Northern Nevada with Adequate, Clean Water Supplies, Improve the Environment, and Keep Communities Safe from Flooding. He created the Rural Nevada program in Section 595 of the 1999 *Water Resources Development Act* to provide funding for wastewater treatment, environmental restoration and water resource protection and development projects in rural Nevada. The Rural Nevada program has provided nearly \$150 million for 32 water infrastructure projects in 11 counties across Nevada, 19 of which are currently under construction or were recently completed. Since 2000, Senator Reid has secured an additional \$260 million for water infrastructure projects and protecting water and natural resources throughout northern Nevada. In total, he has secured over \$410 million to secure rural and northern Nevada water resources and infrastructure.

[P.L. 106-053; P.L. 110-114; P.L. 106-060; P.L. 106-377; P.L. 107-066; P.L. 108-007; P.L. 108-137; P.L. 108-447; P.L. 109-103; P.L. 110-005; P.L. 110-161; P.L. 111-8; P.L. 111-085]

HIGHLIGHTS OF SENATOR REID’S RECORD FOR RURAL NEVADA

- ★ Senator Reid Secured Funding to Provide Rural and Northern Nevada with Adequate, Clean Water Supplies, Improve the Environment, and Keep Communities Safe from Flooding
- ★ Senator Reid Led the Effort to Pass Landmark Health Insurance Reform Legislation Providing Coverage to More Than 600,000 Uninsured Nevadans
- ★ Senator Reid Secured Increased Funding for Medicaid to Help Nevada Cope with the Economic Crisis and Led the Successful Effort to Extend This Federal Assistance
- ★ Senator Reid Has Fought to Strengthen Nevada’s Rural Health Care Infrastructure
- ★ Senator Reid Has Fought for Improved Transportation and Infrastructure in Rural Areas
- ★ Senator Reid Stood Up for Nevada’s Dairy Industry
- ★ Senator Reid Has Fought to Ensure Nevada Ranchers and Farmers are Better Served by Federal Farm Policies
- ★ Senator Reid is Helping Nevada Farmers to Power the Nation
- ★ Senator Reid is a Strong Defender of Our Second Amendment Rights
- ★ Senator Reid Prioritizes Controlling Pests that Endanger Nevada Ranches and Rangeland
- ★ Senator Reid Successfully Fought for Full Funding of the Payment In Lieu of Taxes Program (PILT)
- ★ Senator Reid Rescued the Secure Rural Schools Program
- ★ Senator Reid Has Fought for Funding to Help Nevada Communities Prevent Wildfires
- ★ Senator Reid Has Worked Hard for Nevada’s Mining Industry
- ★ Senator Reid Has Worked Hard to Improve Education in Rural Nevada

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 families living in rural Nevada. By providing Nevadans with a variety of coverage options, investing in the health care workforce, and limiting the ability of insurance companies to discriminate against consumers, the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act* improves access to higher quality health care in rural areas of Nevada. Signed into law on March 23, 2010, this landmark legislation provides lower-cost prescription drugs to Nevada seniors, and \$5 billion in tax credits for Nevadans to purchase private insurance within the first five years of this bill's enactment. [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]

- ***Lower Costs for Rural Nevadans*** Health insurance reform caps what insurance companies can require families to pay in out-of-pocket expenses, such as co-pays and deductibles; prohibits lifetime limits on how much insurance companies cover if beneficiaries get sick; and regulates the use of annual limits to ensure access to necessary care until 2014, when annual limits are prohibited. This will help rural families who pay for nearly half of their health insurance costs out of their own pocket, and the one in five farmers in medical debt with their bills, and provide them with the peace of mind that they will have coverage when they need it. Health insurance reform will also lower premiums in the non-group market by 14 to 20% for the same benefits – premium savings of \$1,380 to \$1,970 for a family in Nevada. [Senate Finance Committee estimate based on CBO, 11/30/09]
- ***Better Health Care Coverage for Nevadans*** Up to 518,000 residents who are uninsured and 132,000 residents who have individual market insurance will gain access to affordable coverage. Up to 311,000 residents will qualify for premium tax credits to help them purchase health coverage. 328,000 seniors will receive free preventive services and 58,200 seniors will have their drug costs in the Medicare Part D “donut hole” covered over time. [HealthReform.gov, accessed 3/20/10; IRS Press Release, 04/19/10]
- ***Expands Community Health Centers (CHCs) and the National Health Service Corps*** More than half of all CHCs are located in rural areas and provide primary care services to individuals with limited financial resources. The new health insurance reform law will provide a total of \$11 billion in new funding for the health centers program. These funds will allow CHCs to expand their operational capacity to serve millions of new patients and will allow health centers to expand and improving existing facilities and construct new sites. The health reform law also provides \$1.5 billion for the National Health Service Corps, which will place more primary care providers in communities with shortages.
- ***Tax Credits for Nevada's Rural Small Businesses*** Health insurance reform provides sliding scale tax credits to enable rural small businesses to provide health benefits to their employees. Nearly one-third of rural Americans work for small businesses, and more than half of them remain uninsured as their employers struggle to provide health benefits.
- ***Protects Access to Care in Nevada's Rural Communities*** Health insurance reform ensures that hospitals and other providers in rural and remote communities receive the reimbursement they need to offer quality care to patients and keep their doors open. It also ensures that rural health care providers receive appropriate Medicare reimbursements to address longstanding inequities that exist among providers from different geographic regions. This reform will help Nevada's small and rural communities where patients must travel long distances between health care providers to receive medical care.

- ***Improved Value for Medicare Advantage*** The 228,000 seniors in Nevada who are not enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan will no longer cross subsidize these private plans, saving \$45 in premium costs per year. The newly passed bill will gradually move toward a fair payment system that rewards performance. [Senate Finance Committee]

Senator Reid Secured Increased Funding for Medicaid to Help Nevada Cope with the Economic Crisis and Led the Successful Effort to Extend This Federal Assistance. Senator Reid fought to ensure that Nevada received the highest percentage increase in the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP), the Medicaid match rate, of any state as part of the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* (Recovery Act) at the beginning of last year. This \$450 million in funding for the state helped Nevada avoid cutting Medicaid and other key programs during the recession. Most recently, Senator Reid led the fight to extend this funding through the end of the next fiscal year, securing an additional \$79 million for Nevada's Medicaid program. In addition to ensuring coverage for children, parents, seniors, and people with disabilities, this extended funding will help states like Nevada retain employees and relieve state funding shortfalls, allowing our state to continue to support affordable, quality medical care that more than 160,000 Nevadans rely on every day. The six month extension is critical as we work to emerge from these tough economic times. [S 3000, Introduced 02/04/10; H.R. 1, Senate Vote 64, 02/13/09, P.L. 111-005; H.R. 1586, Senate Vote 228, 08/05/10, P.L. 111-226]

Senator Reid Has Fought to Strengthen Nevada's Rural Health Care Infrastructure. Senator Reid has consistently supported federal programs that play a critical role in sustaining and improving the fragile health care infrastructure common in Nevada's rural communities. He fought against the federal budget cuts for vital programs like the Title VII Health Professions Program and Rural Outreach Grants, and he will keep fighting for their funding in the future. Senator Reid is also committed to supporting the programs that have real impact on the health and quality of life of everyone in northern Nevada, such as the state's Diabetes Prevention and Control Program. Senator Reid has always worked hard to increase and secure federal funding for specific health care services and research, including funding to expand telemedicine programs across Nevada so that rural Nevadans may consult with doctors in Reno, Las Vegas and across the country from their local hospitals. [P.L. 111-117, P.L. 111-8, P.L. 110-161, P.L. 110-5, P.L. 109-149, P.L. 108-447, P.L. 108-199, P.L. 108-7, P.L. 107-116, P.L. 106-554]

Senator Reid Has Fought for Improved Transportation and Infrastructure in Rural Areas. Senator Reid has used his position as Majority Leader to bring federal funds to Nevada. Understanding how important transit options are for rural Nevadans, he has ensured that money is directly sent to underserved rural areas. For instance, Senator Reid secured \$750,000 for improvements to the Statewide Bus Mark Program throughout Nevada to improve access to public transportation for rural Nevadans, along with elderly and disabled passengers. In the last highway bill, Senator Reid helped direct more than \$87 million to northern Nevada transportation projects including: \$10 million for the V&T Railroad Reconstruction Project in Carson City, \$2 million for the Carson City Bypass Project, \$18 million for road construction projects throughout Fernley and Churchill County, and \$2 million for Elko Roadside Improvements near the California Trail Interpretive Center. In the same bill, Senator Reid worked to send more than \$265 million to southern Nevada for local transportation projects including \$25 million for I-15 widening from Primm to Sloan and \$21 million for the Colorado River Bridge in Laughlin. Senator Reid also ensured over \$2.6 million for the Nevada Department of Transportation to widen SR-160 Blue Diamond Highway to Pahrump in the Fiscal Year 2009 *Omnibus Appropriations Act*. Senator Reid also believes that upgrading air travel in rural Nevada is critical to future economic development projects, and has strongly supported Nevada's rural airports. He was instrumental in securing millions of dollars through Federal Aviation Administration grants for projects at the following airports: Boulder City,

Elko Regional, Beatty, Eureka, Battle Mountain, Austin, Derby Field, Tonapah, Winnemucca Municipal, Gabbs, Hawthorne Industrial, Mesquite, and Owyee. [H.R. 2764, Senate Vote 441, 12/18/07, P.L. 110-161; H.R. 3, Vote 220, 07/29/05, P.L. 109-59; H.R. 1105, Voice Vote, 03/10/09, P.L. 111-8]

Senator Reid Stood Up for Nevada's Dairy Industry. Senator Reid co-authored the *Milk Regulatory Equity Act*, which became law in 2006. The bill was widely supported by the Nevada Dairy Commission and Nevada's dairy industry, and earned wide bipartisan support in Congress. This law closes a loophole in our nation's regulations on milk producers to eliminate unfair competition from producers located outside of federal or state milk market regulations. Without this law, out-of-state dairies would have had an unfair advantage and milk prices in Southern Nevada would have needlessly increased. [S. 2120, Unanimous Consent, 12/16/05, P.L. 109-215]

Senator Reid Has Fought to Ensure Nevada Ranchers and Farmers are Better Served by Federal Farm Policies. Senator Reid has continuously worked to ensure that Farm Bill legislation better reflects the needs of Nevada agriculture and not just a few states and crops. In the most recent Farm Bill in 2008, Senator Reid helped make sure that conservation programs fund wildfire pre-suppression efforts and make conservation easement dollars available to ranchers who want incentives to stay in ranching, as opposed to selling their land for development. The bill also created a new permanent disaster program to for ranchers and farmers, including new coverage for ranchers whose public grazing allotments are closed due to wildfire damage and assistance to ranchers whose private lands are impacted by drought. The Farm Bill also offers unprecedented opportunities for specialty crop growers with over \$3 billion in new investments for research, conservation, disaster assistance, and new market access. [H.R. 6124, Senate Vote 151, 06/18/08, P.L. 110-246]

Senator Reid is Helping Nevada Farmers to Power the Nation. Senator Reid worked to include the new Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) in the 2008 Farm Bill to provide grants and loans to ranchers who invest in on-farm energy production like wind and solar. The grant application has been made easier and simpler for small businesses like farms and ranches. For example, the REAP program has been used for renewable energy and efficiency projects in White Pine and Churchill counties. [H.R. 6124, Senate Vote 151, 06/18/08, P.L. 110-246 (Section 9007)]

Senator Reid is a Strong Defender of Our Second Amendment Rights. Senator Reid has fought hard to bring Nevada values to Washington, D.C. One of his key issues has been making sure that the Second Amendment – and our right to bear arms – is firmly protected. To this end, Senator Reid crafted and passed the *Reaffirmation of State Regulation of Resident and Nonresident Hunting and Fishing Act of 2005* to make sure that Nevadans are given priority for hunting and fishing licenses in our state. Senator Reid also passed legislation and secured over \$60 million in funding to create the nation's finest shooting range, the Clark County Shooting Park. This facility, which opened in Spring 2010, sits on 2,900 acres of land and plays host to shooters from around Nevada and around the world. Senator Reid's support for the Second Amendment has been firmly demonstrated through his strong pro-gun voting record, including his unwavering opposition to the so-called Assault Weapons Ban. Wayne LaPierre, head of the NRA, has called Senator Reid "a true champion of the Second Amendment." [H.R. 1268, Senate Vote 109, 04/21/05, P.L. 109-013; H.R. 2937, Unanimous Consent, 11/20/02, P.L. 107-350; H.R. 449, Unanimous Consent, 10/02/98, P.L. 105-263; Subsequent SNPLMA Grants in 2004, 2005, 2006; S.Amdt. 2637 to S. 1805, Senate Vote 24, 03/02/04; S. 1805, Senate Vote 30, 03/02/04; S.397, Senate Vote 219, 07/29/05, P.L. 109-092; S. 974, Voice Vote, 09/20/89, P.L. 101-195; H.R. 4559, Voice Vote, 10/19/90, P.L. 101-621; H.R. 5200, Unanimous Consent, 10/17/02, P.L. 107-282; H.R. 4593, Unanimous Consent, 10/10/04, P.L. 108-424; H.R. 6111, Senate Vote 279, 12/09/06, P.L. 109-432; H.R. 146, Senate Vote 106, 03/19/09, P.L. 111-011]

Senator Reid Prioritizes Controlling Pests that Endanger Nevada Ranches and Rangeland. Senator Reid has secured more than \$14 million to fight weeds like cheatgrass and pepperweed that invade grazing lands, fuel wildfires and utilize valuable water resources. He secured more than \$3 million to control Mormon crickets and grasshoppers that devastate rangeland plants and endanger Nevada drivers. The Nevada Department of Agriculture's weed and pest control programs were also provided nearly \$2 million via the Senator's efforts. Most recently, Senator Reid introduced the *Lake Tahoe Restoration Act of 2010* and the *Invasive Species Emergency Response Fund Act*. These bills will provide additional resources to limit the spread of invasive pests and to protect Nevada's natural resources. [H.R. 1906, Unanimous Consent, 08/04/99; H.R. 4461, Senate Vote 225, 07/20/00; H.R. 2330, Senate Vote 315, 10/25/01; H.J.Res. 2, Senate Vote 28, 01/23/03; S. Amdt. 121 to H.R. 2657, Voice Vote. 07/10/03; H.R. 2673, Senate Vote 444, 11/06/03; H.R. 4818, Voice Vote, 09/23/04; H.R. 2744, Senate Vote 241, 09/22/05; H.R. 2764, Senate Vote 325, 09/06/07; H.R. 1, Senate Vote 61, 02/10/09; H.R. 1105, Voice Vote, 03/10/09; S. 1406, Senate Vote 261, 08/04/09; H.R. 2997, Senate Vote 261, 08/04/09; S. 2724, 11/03/09; S. 3063, 03/03/10]

Senator Reid Successfully Fought for Full Funding of the Payment In Lieu of Taxes Program (PILT). Payments in Lieu of Taxes are federal payments to local governments that help offset losses in property taxes due to nontaxable Federal lands within their boundaries. Senator Reid made a promise to Nevada's county commissioners that he would find a way to get full funding for this critical program and, at the end of 2008, he did just that. He personally added a provision to the *Emergency Economic Stabilization Act* that provides an unprecedented 5 years of full funding for the PILT program. Before this law passed, Nevada's counties collectively received approximately \$14 million each year in PILT payments. After his legislation, that number jumped to nearly \$23 million. These increased PILT payments have been a vital source of funding for rural communities and Nevada's counties during the current economic downturn, including local law enforcement, schools, road projects, and other vital local services. [H.R. 1424, Senate Vote 213, 10/01/08, P.L. 110-343]

Senator Reid Rescued the Secure Rural Schools Program. The Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program provides funding to rural counties to support schools and related programs. Funding levels are based on a number of factors including population, average income level, and how many acres of national forest lands are present in each county. When this program was reauthorized in 2008, Senator Reid oversaw a major revision of payment formulas that resulted in a 12-fold increase in funding for Nevada. This reauthorization was passed as part of the *Emergency Economic Stabilization Act in 2008*. Before Senator Reid revised the program, Nevada's counties received a total of just \$400,000 each year. Under the revised and extended program, Nevada's counties now receive approximately \$5 million each year. [H.R. 1424, Senate Vote 213, 10/01/08, P.L. 110-343]

Senator Reid Has Fought for Funding to Help Nevada Communities Prevent Wildfires. Senator Reid has made controlling wildfires, helping communities recover from their devastating effects, and reducing unwanted fuel sources priorities throughout his Senate career. In addition to helping compensate ranchers whose lands have been impacted by wildfires, he secured more than \$33 million over the last ten years for wildfire prevention and recovery projects. He has secured more than \$4 million for rehabilitation and stabilization work in Nevada communities and watersheds directly affected by wildfires. Senator Reid established the Nevada Arid Rangelands Initiative to more effectively manage our public lands, along with the Great Basin Plant Materials Center in Fallon to grow the plants needed to restore Nevada's rangelands. He recently introduced the *Lake Tahoe Restoration Act of 2010* and the *Water Efficiency via Carbon Harvesting and Restoration Act*, which will provide \$136 million for forest fuels reduction projects and support for the development of technology to convert plant materials that fuel Nevada wildfires into alternative fuels and fertilizer products. [H.R. 449, Unanimous Consent, 10/02/98; S. Amdt. 1210 to H.R. 2657, Voice Vote, 7/10/03; H.R. 2673, Senate Vote 444, 11/06/03; H.R. 4818, Voice Vote,

09/23/04; H.R. 2744, Senate Vote 241, 09/22/05; H.R. 6111, Senate Vote 279, 11/09/06; H.R. 2764, Senate Vote 325, 09/06/07; H.R. 6124, Senate Vote 144, 06/05/08; H.R. 6124, Senate Vote Over Veto 151, 06/18/08; H.R. 1, Senate Vote 61, 02/10/09; H.R. 2997, Senate Vote 261, 08/04/09; S. 1713, Senate Vote 261, 09/24/09; S. 2724, 11/03/09]

Senator Reid Has Worked Hard for Nevada’s Mining Industry. As the son of a hardrock miner, Senator Reid understands, first-hand, the importance of mining to our state and particularly to northern Nevada. Today, Nevada is the third largest gold producer in the world and mining in Nevada employs about 12,000 people who earn, on average, \$65,000 a year. Senator Reid has led the fight in the Senate to defend the mining industry, mining families, and their communities from attempts to impose excessive taxes and overly burdensome regulations. He is also committed to advancing policies that enable the mining industry to grow and invest in the future while protecting the environment and our public lands. Senator Reid believes that any revision of The 1872 Mining Law must ensure a stable supply of strategic minerals, reasonable compensation for the use of federal lands, business certainty for mining companies, and legitimate and enforceable reclamation assurances.

Senator Reid Has Worked Hard to Improve Education in Rural Nevada. As someone whose life was transformed by education, Senator Reid understands the importance of providing all Nevadans the opportunity to receive a quality education. He also understands the unique challenges facing rural schools, which is why Senator Reid has fought to pass legislation to provide safe transportation for rural schoolchildren, bring more highly qualified teachers to Nevada, address the dropout crisis, improve middle and high schools, bring millions in funding for essential programs in Nevada’s K-12 schools, and much more.

- ***Senator Reid Fought for Safe, Reliable Transportation for Rural Schoolchildren.*** Many rural school districts do not have safe and reliable buses and lack the resources to buy new buses or retrofit the ones they have. This leaves children no choice but to ride in outdated, unsafe buses. Senator Reid worked to bring federal funds in the form of grants and low-interest loans to Nevada to retrofit and replace outdated school buses across the state. Additionally, Senator Reid has introduced legislation to allow rural school districts to use federal transportation funds to purchase new buses and update their outdated buses. [S. 3590, Introduced 09/25/08]
- ***Senator Reid Worked to Bring More Highly-Qualified Teachers to Nevada.*** 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 secured funding for teacher preparation programs, such as a distance education teacher program. This funding helped 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 is Working to Address the Dropout Crisis.*** In Nevada, nearly a 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 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 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 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. [P.L. 111-117, P.L. 111-008, P.L. 110-161, P.L. 109-149; P.L. 108-447, P.L. 108-199, P.L. 108-7]
- ***Senator Reid Fought to Make College More Affordable for All Nevadans.*** As a college degree becomes more important for success in today's competitive global economy, the high cost has put higher education out of reach for too many, and strained the budgets of students and their families. Making college more affordable and accessible for Nevada's students has been one of Senator Reid's top priorities.
 - ♦ ***Senator Reid led the passage of the College Cost Reduction and Access Act and the Higher Education Opportunity Act.*** These bills cut student loan interest rates in half over five years, provided a significant increase to the Pell Grant, and simplified the federal financial aid form. They also encourage students to enter public service by providing loan forgiveness for borrowers who spend ten years in a public service occupation, such as teaching, law enforcement, military service, and social work. [H.R. 2669, Senate Vote 326, 09/07/07, P.L. 110-84; H.R. 4137, Senate Vote 194, 07/31/08, P.L. 110-315]
 - ♦ ***Senator Reid guided the Recovery Act through Congress, which included important higher education provisions.*** The Recovery Act helped students and families struggling to pay for the cost of college or continuing education during these challenging economic times by expanding tax credits for higher education expenses with the American Opportunity Credit, which provides a tax credit of up to \$2,500 for tuition, fees, or textbooks. The Recovery Act also increased the maximum Pell Grant to \$5,350 for the 2009-10 school year. [H.R. 1, Senate Vote 64, 02/13/09, P.L. 111-005]
 - ♦ ***Senator Reid helped lead the passage of the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act.*** This legislation, which is now law, included a number of higher education provisions that will make a college education more affordable for Nevada students. It ended wasteful subsidies to banks to originate federal student loans, saving taxpayers more than \$60 billion over ten years. These savings were invested in a number of ways to help Nevada students, including [H.R. 4872, Senate Vote 105, 03/25/10, P.L. 111-152]:
 - An increase in the maximum Pell Grant from \$5,350 to \$5,550 for the 2010-2011 school year, and to \$5,975 by 2017. The bill also ensures that the Pell Grant will keep pace with the rising cost of college, with annual increases linked to the Consumer Price Index.

- An estimated \$120 million in additional Pell Grant funding, helping nearly 3,000 more low- and moderate-income Nevada students afford a college education.
- An additional \$8 million over the next five years for Nevada colleges and universities for default prevention, financial literacy and debt counseling, and other programs to retain and graduate more students.
- Up to millions in competitive grant funding for Nevada community colleges to improve educational or career training programs.
- Starting in 2014, college graduates in Nevada will be able to cap their loan payments at 10% of their net income, and have their student loans forgiven after 20 years of making payments.

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