



# SENATOR HARRY REID, MAJORITY LEADER WORKING TO IMPROVE WOMEN'S HEALTH



*Senator Reid is working to ensure that the women of Nevada receive the health care and benefits they need. Too many women in Nevada are familiar with the hardships caused by rising health care costs, inadequate services, and lack of coverage. Women of childbearing age spend 68 percent more in out-of-pocket health care costs than men, in part because of reproductive health-related needs. The economic crisis has compounded the problem and caused more women to delay or skip health care. For example, one in five women over the age of 50 has not received a mammogram in the past two years. Senator Reid is working to make sure that women receive the affordable, quality care they need and deserve.*

**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. With the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act* and the *Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act* signed into law by President Obama, insurance companies will no longer deny children health insurance because of a pre-existing condition, or drop coverage if a patient becomes sick. The new law also means that parents can keep children on their health plans up to age 26. When fully implemented, health reform will prohibit insurers from discriminating against women or against consumers based on health status. This historic health reform strengthens Medicare for our seniors and closes the “donut hole,” and ensures that women always have guaranteed choices of quality, affordable health insurance if they lose their jobs, switch jobs, move, or become sick. [Senate Vote 396, HR 3590, 12/24/09, P.L. 111-148; Senate Vote 105, HR 4872, 3/25/10, P.L. 111-152]

- **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. Over 30,000 small businesses in Nevada may be eligible for tax credits for premiums. [HealthReform.gov, accessed 3/20/10; IRS Press Release, 04/19/10]

- **One-Stop Shopping to Put Women in Charge** Women are often the decision-makers when it comes to health care for their families. Health reform will provide standardized, easy-to-understand

## HIGHLIGHTS OF SENATOR REID'S RECORD ON WOMEN'S HEALTH

- ★ Senator Reid Led the Effort to Pass Landmark Health Insurance Reform Legislation Providing Coverage to More Than 600,000 Uninsured Nevadans
- ★ Senator Reid Fought to Ensure Access to Affordable Birth Control
- ★ Senator Reid is the Sponsor of the Prevention First Act
- ★ Senator Reid Sponsored the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act
- ★ Senator Reid Has Supported Funding for Lifesaving Medical Research and Legislation to Help Prevent, Treat and Cure a Wide Range of Illnesses

information through the Exchanges on different health insurance plans available in Nevada so women can easily compare prices, benefits and performance of health plans to decide which quality affordable option is right for themselves and their families.

- ***Reduced Premiums and Premium Tax Credits to Expand Private Insurance Coverage in Nevada*** Health insurance reform will reduce family health insurance premiums by \$1,380 to \$1,970 for the same benefits, as compared to what they would be without health reform by 2016. Reform will also provide \$5 billion in premium tax credits and cost-sharing tax credits for residents in Nevada from 2014 to 2019 to purchase private health insurance. [Senate Finance Committee; Senate Finance Committee estimate based on CBO, 11/30/09]
- ***Preventive Care for Better Health*** The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act will help to reduce the tremendous burden of preventable disease among women in Nevada by eliminating copayments and deductibles for recommended preventive care and screenings in new private insurance plans starting this September. The law also eliminates out-of-pocket costs for recommended preventive care and screenings like mammograms in Medicare, while adding an annual wellness visit to the program, giving women the opportunity to develop personalized prevention plans and to assess risk factors for disease.
- ***Increased Medicaid Support*** The Federal government will fully fund the coverage expansion for the first three years of the policy, and continue substantial support, paying for 90% of costs after 2020, compared to Nevada's current FMAP of 50.2%. In total, Nevada could receive \$3.6 billion more dollars in federal funds for Medicaid as a result of the expansion from 2014 to 2019. [Federal Register 73:229, 11/26/08, p. 72051-72053; Senate Finance Committee]

**Senator Reid Fought to Ensure Access to Affordable Birth Control.** Senator Reid successfully championed legislation that is now law, which allows hundreds of safety-net providers to access affordable prescription birth control. Without this law, skyrocketing drug prices would have made it difficult for the thousands of Nevada women who rely on safety-net providers to access the family planning services they need to help prevent unintended pregnancies. This common-sense legislation did not cost the taxpayers a dime. [P.L. 111-8]

**Senator Reid is the Sponsor of the Prevention First Act to Improve Access to Women's Health Care.** Senator Reid is the sponsor of bipartisan legislation that would improve access to women's health care, reduce the rate of unintended pregnancy and reduce abortions – all while saving taxpayer dollars. The *Prevention First Act* would improve access to contraception for low-income women, help to reduce the rate of teen pregnancy in Nevada, and end insurance discrimination against women by requiring health plans to cover prescription contraception to the same extent that they cover prescription drugs and other medical services. [S. 21, Introduced 1/6/09; Voice Vote, HR 1105, 3/10/09; Senate Vote 396, HR 3590, 12/24/09; Senate Vote 105, HR 4872, 3/25/10]

- One provision of this bill, which is now law, allows hundreds of safety-net providers to access affordable prescription birth control. Without this law, skyrocketing drug prices would have made it difficult for the thousands of Nevada women who rely on safety net providers to access the family planning services they need to help prevent unintended pregnancies. This common-sense legislation did not cost the taxpayers a dime. [P.L. 111-117; S. 21, Introduced 1/6/09]
- Another provision of this bill that recently became law will make it easier for States to extend Medicaid coverage for family planning services and supplies to women who should be entitled to Medicaid funded prenatal, labor, delivery and postpartum care if they became pregnant. [P.L. 111-148; S. 21, Introduced 1/6/09]

**Senator Reid Sponsored the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act.** Senator Reid sponsored and secured passage of legislation that will establish a national strategy to study the potential links between the environment and breast cancer. The resulting discoveries could be critical to improving our knowledge of this complex illness, which could lead to new treatments and perhaps, one day, a cure. [UC, HR 1157, 9/27/2008; P.L. 110-354]

**Senator Reid Has Supported Funding for Lifesaving Medical Research and Legislation to Help Prevent, Treat and Cure a Wide Range of Illnesses.** Senator Reid has worked to direct a historic level of funding to the National Institutes of Health for biomedical research in areas such as cancer, Alzheimer’s disease, heart disease, HIV/AIDS and diabetes. These investments could lead to new treatments or cures for a broad range of diseases and conditions that impact women and their families.

- **National Institutes of Health** Senator Reid has an established track record of directing increased funding to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), our nation’s premier medical research institution. As part of the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act*, Senator Reid supported allocating over \$10 billion for the NIH. These investments could lead to new cures and treatments for a broad range of illnesses and conditions like cancer, Alzheimer’s disease, heart disease, diabetes, Parkinson’s disease and spinal cord injuries. [Senate Vote 64, HR 1, 2/13/09, P.L. 111-005]
- **Cancer** In addition to directing federal funds to cancer research at the NIH, Senator Reid has also authored or helped to ensure the passage of numerous bills which are now law, including: the *Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act*, which will help to prevent the high rate of death from lung cancer in Nevada that is caused by tobacco; the *Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act*, which will help to establish a national strategy to study the potential links between the environment and breast cancer; the *Caroline Pryce Walker Conquer Childhood Cancer Act*, which expands research programs aimed at preventing childhood cancer; and the *National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program*, which funds the Women’s Health Connection in Nevada and provides timely access to breast and cervical cancer screening for low-income, uninsured and underserved women. [Senate Vote 207, HR 1256, 6/11/09; UC, HR 1157, 9/27/08; UC, HR 1553, 7/16/08; UC, HR 1132, 3/29/07]
- **HIV/AIDS** Senator Reid has repeatedly supported funding to fight HIV and AIDS and provide treatment for those living with the disease. He supported the creation of the *Ryan White CARE Act* in 1990 and its reauthorizations in 1996, 2000, 2006 and 2009. Most recently, Senator Reid led the Senate in passing the *Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde United States Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Reauthorization Act*, which will help fight HIV/AIDS and other diseases in Africa and around the globe. [Senate Vote 97, S. 2240, 5/16/90; UC, S. 641, 5/2/96; UC, S. 2311, 6/6/00; UC, HR 6143, 12/6/06; UC, S. 1793, 10/19/09; Senate Vote 182, HR 5501, 7/16/08]
- **Diabetes** Senator Reid also supported the creation of the Special Diabetes Program in 1997 and its reauthorizations in 2000, 2002 and 2008. This program provides \$150 million annually to support research towards a cure for type 1 diabetes and \$150 million annually to support diabetes treatment and prevention strategies targeted to Native American populations. [UC, HR 2015, 7/31/97; UC, HR 4577, 12/15/00; UC, HR 5738, 11/20/02; Senate Vote 177, HR 6331, 7/15/08]

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