



# SENATOR HARRY REID, MAJORITY LEADER WORKING FOR WOMEN'S ISSUES



*Throughout his career in Congress, Senator Reid has been a strong advocate on women's issues ranging from tax relief for Nevada's working families to supporting Title IX. He worked to strengthen legal protections for women's civil rights, fought to ensure that women and their families will have access to the effective, affordable, quality care they need and deserve, led the effort to give women equal pay for equal work, and has been a champion to help women stay safe and protected from violence. Senator Reid understands that every issue before Congress impacts women and he will continue to fight for the priorities that matter to women across Nevada and the country.*

**Senator Reid Led the Effort to Give Women Equal Pay for Equal Work.** Senator Reid led the successful effort in the Senate to pass the *Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act*, the first bill President Obama signed into law. This landmark legislation restores civil rights protections for workers who face pay discrimination based on age, race, gender, national origin, religion, or disability. This legislation will help to ensure that men and women are paid fairly and that they have a fair opportunity under the law to fight back when they are not. After fighting to pass the bill in the face of resistance from an unsupportive Bush Administration, Senator Reid made passage a top priority in 2009, clearing the *Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act* for White House approval just a week after President Obama took office. Sen. Reid is also an original co-sponsor of the *Paycheck Fairness Act*, which would revise and strengthen the *Equal Pay Act of 1963* and further target gender pay discrepancies in the work place. He recently reintroduced this important legislation in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress. [S. 181, Senate Vote 37, 01/27/09, P.L. 111-002; S. 182, Introduced 01/08/09; S. 3772, Introduced 09/13/10]

**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

## HIGHLIGHTS OF SENATOR REID'S WOMEN'S ISSUES RECORD

- ★ Senator Reid Led the Effort to Give Women Equal Pay for Equal Work
- ★ Senator Reid Has Consistently Lowered Taxes for Nevada's Working Families
- ★ Senator Reid Led the Effort to Pass Landmark Health Insurance Reform Legislation Providing Coverage to More Than 600,000 Uninsured Nevadans
- ★ Senator Reid Secured Funding for Needy Families
- ★ Senator Reid Has Been a Strong Supporter of the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)
- ★ Senator Reid is an Original Cosponsor of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)
- ★ Senator Reid Has Brought Over \$25 Million to Nevada to Help Women Who are Victims of Violence
- ★ Senator Reid Led the Fight to Reauthorize and Improve the Children's Health Insurance Program, Known as Nevada Check Up
- ★ Senator Reid Has Been a Strong Supporter of Title IX
- ★ Senator Reid Has Improved Access to Contraception
- ★ Senator Reid Was Instrumental in Raising the Federal Minimum Wage
- ★ Senator Reid Ensured Passage of Landmark Hate Crimes Legislation
- ★ Senator Reid Has Worked to Ensure the Representation of Women on the Federal Bench

Work Pay tax credit, enacted as part of the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* (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, 10/1/08, 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, April 11, 2003]
- ***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 111<sup>th</sup> 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, 05/6/09, 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 111<sup>th</sup> Congress extends marriage penalty relief permanently. [Senate Vote 173, S.Con.Res. 13, 04/29/09]

**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, 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. Up to 24,000 small businesses will be eligible for tax credits for premiums. [HealthReform.gov, accessed 3/20/10]
- ***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 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 Secured Funding for Needy Families.** Senator Reid has worked to ensure the continual extension of the TANF Supplemental Grants, which sends an additional \$3.7 million per year to Nevada to provide social services and financial assistance to low-income needy families with children. Also, last year Senator Reid was instrumental in the creation of the TANF Emergency Contingency Fund (ECF) through his leadership in passing the 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. 109-68; H.R. 6331, Senate Vote 177, 07/15/08, P.L. 110-275; H.R. 1, Senate Vote 64, 02/13/09, 111-005]

**Senator Reid Has Been a Strong Supporter of the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA).** Many American workers face challenges in balancing their careers with personal or family needs and Senator Reid understands the value and importance of providing workers with greater capability to maintain their careers without sacrificing the needs of their loved ones. Senator Reid was an original cosponsor of the Senate version of the FMLA and voted for passage of the House version that President Bill Clinton signed into law in 1993. The provisions under this important legislation provide American workers the basic protections to care for themselves and their families in times of great need. Earlier this year, Senator Reid voted to improve the FMLA through amendments for expanded military family leave provisions and minimum eligibility requirements for airline flight crew members in the *National Defense Authorization Act* for Fiscal Year 2010 and the *Airline Flight Crew Technical Corrections Act*, respectively. Senator Reid maintains his support for families across our country through current efforts such as the *Healthy Families Act* and the *Telework Enhancement Act* to provide workers with the flexibility to take care of their families while managing a successful career. [S. 5, Introduced 01/21/93; H.R. 1, Senate Vote 11, 02/04/93, P.L. 103-003; H.R. 2647, Senate Vote 327, 10/22/09, P.L. 111-084; S. 1422, Unanimous Consent, 11/10/09, P.L. 111-119; S. 1152, Introduced 05/21/09; S. 707, Unanimous Consent, 05/24/10]

**Senator Reid is an Original Cosponsor of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).** This landmark legislation brought national focus to the epidemic of violence against women. VAWA increased jail sentences for perpetrators of violence aimed at women, criminalized harassment and stalking, and provided money for rape prevention and education programs. Additionally, this bill provided grants to law enforcement for domestic violence reduction, established the National Commission on Violent Crime Against Women, and precluded women's sexual and medical history from being introduced in court as justification for violence. Senator Reid has continued to support VAWA each time it has been reauthorized and has consistently pushed for more VAWA funding. [S. 11, Introduced 01/21/93; H.R. 3355, Senate Vote 295, 08/25/94, P.L. 103-322; S. 735, Senate Vote 71, 04/17/96, P.L. 104-132; S.Amdt. 3312 to S. 2260, Voice Vote, 07/23/98; H.R. 3244, Senate Vote 269, 10/09/00, P.L. 106-386; H.R. 3204, Unanimous Consent, 12/16/05, P.L. 109-162]

**Senator Reid Has Brought Over \$25 Million to Nevada to Help Women Who are Victims of Violence.** Over the last decade, Senator Reid has brought more than \$25 million to Nevada to support victims of domestic violence and strengthen struggling families. These programs include S.A.F.E. House, the Shade Tree, Nevada Child Seekers, the Las Vegas Family Development Foundation, Kidspace, Olive Crest, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, and the Washoe County Sheriff DNA Lab. Senator Reid believes in fighting to support local programs that help families. [CJS Appropriations Bills: FY2009, P.L. 111-008; FY2008, P.L. 110-161; FY2006, P.L. 109-108; FY2005, P.L. 108-447; FY2004, P.L. 108-199; FY2003, P.L. 108-007; FY2002, P.L. 107-077; FY2001 P.L. 106-553; FY2000 P.L. 106-113]

**Senator Reid Led the Fight to Reauthorize and Improve the Children's Health Insurance Program, Known as Nevada Check Up.** Senator Reid has always fought to make sure that all Nevadans, especially women who are pregnant, have had access to the quality, effective, affordable health care they need and deserve. Senator Reid led the Senate in passing the *Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009*. The re-authorization of this program has ensured that thousands of women and their newborn children who do not qualify for Medicaid and would otherwise be uninsured receive the care they need to stay healthy. It also made it easier for states to cover pregnant women in CHIP and Medicaid, and gave states the option of covering legal immigrant pregnant women and children in CHIP and Medicaid without requiring a five-year waiting period. [Senate Vote 31, HR 2, 1/29/09, P.L. 111-003]

**Senator Reid Has Been a Strong Supporter of Title IX.** Enacted nearly four decades ago, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in federally funded education



programs or activities. Over the course of this landmark legislation's history, there have been numerous attempts to weaken Title IX and the protections that it affords female students. Most recently, several efforts were made by the Bush Administration to drastically undercut the mandates included in Title IX, all of which were met by Senator Reid's strong opposition. In addition to his strong defense of the statute, Senator Reid continues to do all that he can to promote Title IX. On June 20, 2007, Senator Harry Reid was proud to support a Senate resolution, which recognized the many advancements in equality achieved under Title IX, as well as the need to continue pursuing the goal of educational opportunities for women and girls. [S.RES. 242, Unanimous Consent, 06/20/07]

**Senator Reid Has Improved Access to Contraception.** Senator Reid has led efforts to improve access to contraception and reduce the staggering rate of unintended pregnancy in our nation. Senator Reid worked to pass legislation, which is now law that requires contraceptive coverage for federal employees. He has sponsored the *Prevention First Act*, bipartisan legislation that would improve access to contraception for low-income women and help to reduce the rate of teen pregnancy. [H.R. 1105, Voice Vote, 03/10/09, P.L. 111-008; 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; S. 21, Introduced 01/06/09]

- One provision of the *Prevention First Act*, 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 a dime. [S. 21, Introduced 1/6/09; H.R. 3288, Senate Vote 374, 12/13/09, P.L. 111-117]
- Another provision of *Prevention First Act* 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 become pregnant. [S. 21, Introduced 1/6/09; H.R. 3288, Senate Vote 374, 12/13/09, P.L. 111-117]

**Senator Reid Was Instrumental in Raising the Federal Minimum Wage.** In 2009, over 3.5 million people, in the United States were paid at or below the minimum wage – 62% of whom were women. After nearly a decade of struggle against Republican opposition, Senator Reid helped usher through the first increase to the federal minimum wage since 1997. Despite the efforts of those against the wage hike, the bill finally passed, along with \$8.3 billion in tax cuts for small businesses. The legislation raised minimum wage from \$5.15 per hour to \$7.25 an hour over two years, which directly or indirectly benefits 13 million hardworking Americans. [Bureau of Labor Statistics; H.R. 2206, Senate Vote 181, 05/24/07, P.L. 110-028; H.R. 2, Senate Vote 42, 02/1/2007, P.L. 110-028]

**Senator Reid Ensured Passage of Landmark Hate Crimes Legislation.** The Senator has been a strong supporter of hate crimes legislation throughout his career in Congress. Last year, Senator Reid fought to ensure that the *Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act* was successfully added as an amendment to the *National Defense Authorization Act* for fiscal year 2010. This legislation expands the groups protected under hate crimes law (which covers race, color, religion, and national origin) to include gender, along with disability, sexual orientation, and gender identity. This legislation also provides the Department of Justice with the authority to assist state and local jurisdictions in prosecuting violent hate crimes against women, and bring justice to those who commit violent crimes based on bigotry and prejudice. [H.R.2647, Senate Vote 327, 10/22/09, P.L. 111-84]

**Senator Reid Has Worked to Ensure the Representation of Women on the Federal Bench.** Throughout his career in the US Senate, Senator Reid has worked to ensure that highly qualified women are represented on the federal courts and in appointed positions throughout the federal government. Sen. Reid recommended Judge Johnnie Rawlinson, an exceptional woman who was confirmed to sit on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Sen. Reid felt it was especially important that a woman be nominated to fill the recently vacated seat on the U.S. District Court, as all nine of the other sitting judges on this court are men. This summer, he was pleased to be able to swear in Judge Gloria Navarro, who has nearly 20 years of service in both the public and private sector and in federal and state court. Additionally, Senator Reid was proud to lead the effort for confirmation of Supreme Court Justices Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan, the third and fourth women confirmed to serve on the highest court in the land. [P.N. 833, Voice Vote, 07/21/00; P.N. 1341, Senate Vote 128, 05/05/10; P.N. 506, Senate Vote 262, 08/06/09; P.N. 1768, Senate Vote 229, 08/05/10]

**Carson City**

600 East William St., Ste. 302  
Carson City, NV 89701  
Phone: 775-882-7343

**Las Vegas**

333 Las Vegas Blvd. S., Ste. 8016  
Las Vegas, NV 89101  
Phone: 702-388-5020

**Reno**

400 S. Virginia St., Ste. 902  
Reno, NV 89501  
Phone: 775-686-5750

**Washington DC**

522 Hart Senate Office Bldg  
Washington, DC 20510  
Phone: 1-866-SEN-REID