



# Democrats Provided Health Care, Saved and Created Jobs, Protected Workers

Since 2007, the Democratic-led Congress has:

## Saved and Created Millions of Jobs Through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

### 2.8 million more people employed:

ARRA increased the number of people employed by as many as 2.8 million, according to the Congressional Budget Office. It also lowered the unemployment rate by as much as 1.5 percentage points, CBO said.



### 311,000 education and government services jobs:

ARRA provided a total of \$53.6 billion for the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF) to help sustain and create jobs and advance education reforms. It is estimated that funding provided for this program helped create or retain an estimated 311,000 jobs in the education and government services sectors, which included positions such as teachers, librarians, counselors, corrections officers, public health personnel, and construction workers.

### 93,000 education jobs:

ARRA provided \$10 billion in additional Title I, Part A funds to local education agencies (LEAs). IDEA received \$12.2 billion and is provided under three separate authorities: \$11.3 billion is available under Part B Grants to States; \$400 million is available under Part B Preschool Grants; and \$500 million is available under Part C Grants for Infants and Families. It is estimated that between Title I and IDEA (all three programs) 93,000 jobs were created or retained.

### 300,000 summer jobs:

ARRA provided \$1.2 billion for Youth Services, including summer employment opportunities, and it is estimated that these funds supported more than 300,000 summer jobs.

### Opportunities for 155,000 students:

ARRA provided \$200 million for Federal Work-Study, which supported student employment and service opportunities for more than 155,000 college students.

## Saved or Created 319,000 Jobs in Local Communities

The Education Jobs and Medicaid Assistance Act will save or create 319,000 American jobs in local communities, including 161,000 teacher jobs, and also discourages American corporations from shipping jobs overseas. The measure will also keep police officers and firefighters on the job, at no cost to taxpayers.

## Reduced Health Care Costs, Guaranteeing Choices, and Ensuring Access to Quality, Affordable Care

For the first time in America's history, all Americans will have access to quality, affordable health care under a final package of reforms signed into law in March 2010. The law will protect Americans from the worst insurance industry practices, offer the uninsured and small businesses the opportunity to obtain affordable health care plans, cover 32 million uninsured Americans, all while reducing the deficit by \$143 billion over the next decade and more than a trillion dollars over 20 years.

## Ensured that Victims of Pay Discrimination Are Treated Fairly Under the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act

The first bill President Obama signed into law was the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which overturned a Supreme Court ruling that made it harder for workers to pursue pay discrimination claims. The bill was named after Lilly Ledbetter, who the Supreme Court said had waited too long to sue for pay discrimination, despite the fact that she filed a charge with the U.S. Equal Opportunity Employment Commission as soon as she received an anonymous note alerting her to pay discrimination. The law also makes it clear that employees who are victims of discrimination are entitled to up to two years of back pay, as already provided in the Civil Rights Act.

## Increased the Minimum Wage

After 10 years of no action, the 110th Congress approved the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007 to provide a minimum wage boost for the lowest paid 13 million Americans with a bipartisan vote of 315-116 on January 10, 2007. It was signed into law on May 25, 2007 as part of an emergency supplemental appropriations bill. The Act increases the minimum wage from \$5.15 per hour to \$7.25 per hour by July 2009.

## Provided Leave Time to Military Families

Workers who have family members wounded in military duty are now able to take six months of unpaid leave from their jobs to care for their loved one. Workers are also able to use Family and Medical Leave to deal with issues that arise as a result of the deployment of a spouse, parent, or child to a combat zone like Iraq or Afghanistan. These measures became law on January 28, 2008 as part of the National Defense Authorization Act.

## Provided Better Access to Mental Health Treatment

A measure to ensure better access to treatment for people suffering from mental illnesses was signed into law on October 3, 2008 as part of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008. The legislation, previously passed as the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act, requires group health insurance plans to put coverage for mental illnesses on equal footing with physical ailments. Employers will be able to offer more comprehensive mental health coverage without significant additional cost, while reducing out-of-pocket costs for plan participants.

## Prevented Genetic Discrimination

The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2007 (GINA) was signed into law on May 21, 2008. GINA protects personal genetic information from discriminatory use by health insurers and employers. The bipartisan measure prohibits employers from using individuals' genetic information when making hiring, firing, job placement or promotion decisions. It also makes it illegal for group health plans and health insurers to deny coverage to healthy individuals or charge them higher premiums based solely on a genetic predisposition to a specific disease.

## Protected People With Disabilities

Signed into law on September 25, 2008, the ADA Amendments Act of 2008 was passed by the House on September 17, 2008 to stop discrimination against individuals with disabilities by restoring the original intent of the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act.

## Invested in Education and Job Training Programs

The 21st Century Competitiveness Act, signed into law on August 8, 2007, made major investments in education and job training programs to help encourage America's innovative spirit and strengthen the nation's economic competitiveness.