

SENATOR REID: FIGHTING FOR NEVADA'S LATINO COMMUNITY

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 more than a quarter of Nevada's population and that number continues to grow. Nevada Latinos are an important part of the economic and cultural landscape that makes Nevada a great place to live and visit. For years, Senator Reid has fought for common sense immigration reform and remains steadfast until it is signed into law. He 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 affected by lack of health insurance. Senator Reid secured funding for Nevada's schools and continued to fight discriminatory practices in workplaces and schools. 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.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 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 Led Passage of a Commonsense Bipartisan Immigration Reform Bill 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 Continues to Support the Growth of Small Businesses
- ★ Senator Reid is Working to Boost Our Economy By Creating New Jobs, 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
- ★ The National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLEA) scored Senator Reid with a 100% for his overall votes on Latino priorities in Congress including immigration, economic empowerment and Latino political nominations

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.

★ **Helping to Make College Affordable.** Thanks to Senator Reid's leadership, Congress passed the *College Cost Reduction and Access Act* of 2007, the *Higher Education Opportunity Act* of 2008, and the *Health Care and Higher Education Reconciliation Act* of 2010. Combined, these laws have led to a dramatic increase in federal financial assistance for low- and moderate-income students and their families by increasing the maximum Pell Grant, expanding student loan forgiveness opportunities, and implementing and strengthening the Income-Based Repayment Program (IBR). In 2013, Senator Reid led reauthorization of the American Opportunity Tax Credit, extending the program through December 2017 and providing students and families with a tax credit up to \$2,500 for college tuition and other related expenses. More recently, he supported and helped pass the *Bipartisan Student Loan Certainty Act* of 2013, which prevented the doubling of student loan interest rates which took effect on July 1, 2013. This market-based approach has already lowered interest rates during the 2013-14 school year to 3.9 percent for undergraduates, 5.4 percent for graduate students, and 6.4 for PLUS (parent) loans.[H.R. 2669, Senate Vote 326, 09/7/07, P.L. 110-08; H.R. 4137, Unanimous Consent, 07/29/08, Senate Vote, 194, 07/31/08, P.L. 110-315; H.R. 4872, Senate Vote 105, 03/25/10, P.L. 111-152; H.R. 8, Senate Vote 251, 01/01/13, P.L. 112-240; H.R. 1911, Senate Vote 185, 07/24/13, P.L. 113-028]

★ **Strengthening Head Start.** Senator Reid helped pass the *Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act*, which expanded 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, it is more than half. *The Recovery Act* made \$2.1 billion in grant funding available to the Head Start and Early Head Start programs. These funds allowed thousands more children and families to have access to these important early learning programs. Senator Reid has also helped lead the effort to protect Head Start by successfully preventing Republican attempts to cut funding from the program. [H.R. 1429, Senate Vote 409, 11/14/07, P.L. 110-134; Head Start Program Fact Sheet Fiscal Year 2012; Nevada's Head Start Needs Executive Brief, March 2009; H.R. 1, Senate Vote 64, 02/13/09, P.L. 111-005]

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.

The National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLA) scored Senator Reid with a 100% for his overall votes on Latino priorities in Congress including immigration, economic empowerment and Latino political nominations.

National Council of La Raza (NCLR)
2010 Capitol Awards

League of United
Latin American Citizens (LULAC) 2007

National Council of La Raza (NCLR)
2001 Capitol Awards

★ **Fighting to Protect Education Jobs.** The recent recession and deep cuts to state education funding put in jeopardy the jobs of hundreds of thousands of teachers and support staff. Senator Reid helped lead passage of the *Recovery Act* in 2009 and the Education Jobs Fund in 2011, which helped save several hundred thousand educator jobs and created hundreds more. The legislation also helped prevent increased class sizes, a reduction in special education

services, and the loss of other essential school services. Nevada schools received more than \$157 million in assistance, which helped create or save more than 4,300 teacher jobs across our state. [H.R. 1, Senate Vote 64, 02/13/09, P.L. 111-005; U.S. Department of Education Press Release, 04/22/11; U.S. Department of Education American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Report, 11/02/09]

Senator Reid Led Passage of a Commonsense Bipartisan Immigration Reform Bill That is Tough, Fair, and Practical. Senator Reid has been a strong supporter of reforming our broken immigration system in a way that is tough on lawbreakers, fair to taxpayers, and practical to implement. As Senate Majority Leader, he has made the fight for enactment of comprehensive immigration reform a top priority, devoting more Senate floor time to this issue than any other. He has fought to protect and strengthen the U.S. economy, while safeguarding the rights and wages of American workers. Senator Reid believes that commonsense 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. Senator Reid has made reuniting and keeping families together a top priority, urging and supporting the Obama Administration's decision to provide legal status to DREAMers, and long fought for the protection of refugees.

★ **Fighting for Commonsense Immigration Reform.** In June 2013, Senator Reid successfully led the Senate in passing common sense reform legislation, the *Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act*, by a strong bipartisan vote of 68-32. Debated and improved under the deliberative and transparent oversight of the Senate Judiciary Committee, this bill will continue our work to secure the borders, improve our dysfunctional legal immigration system, and require the estimated 11 million people who are here without authorization to register with the government, pay fines and taxes, learn English, and get in the back of the line to obtain legal status. This legislation builds on previous improvements made to strengthen border security, by making an unprecedented \$46 billion investment that will have a profound impact on illegal entries and border security. These actions

combined will benefit America's national security as well as economic security. Furthermore, they will reduce the deficit by \$1 trillion over the next two decades. This common sense legislation honors the contributions of generations of immigrants – immigrants who founded this country and built it into the superpower it is today. It also recognizes that today's immigrants came for the same reasons as generations before them – to build a better life for themselves and their children and to achieve the American dream. This bipartisan *Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act* respects and fulfills that hope. [S. 2611, Senate Vote 157, 05/25/06; S. 1639, Senate Vote 235, 06/28/07; S. 744, Senate Vote 168, 06/27/13]

★ **Championing Legislation for Undocumented Youth.** The *Development, Relief, and Education for*

Alien Minors Act (DREAM Act), a version of which was included in the *Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act*, would provide students brought to the U.S. illegally years ago 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 brought the *DREAM Act* before the full Senate for a vote in 2007. The bill received bipartisan majority support, but did not receive the 60 votes necessary to overcome a filibuster by its opponents. Senator Reid brought the *DREAM Act* back to the Senate floor as a stand-alone measure in December 2010, but his Republican colleagues again blocked the Senate from considering the bill. In April 2011, Senator Reid led 21 of his Democratic Senate

colleagues in sending a letter to the President, urging him to grant "deferred action" to DREAMers and allow them to stay legally, work in the United States, and contribute to this nation they call home. Therefore, Senator Reid strongly supported the President's decision to grant Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) in June 2012. This policy suspends the deportation of upstanding young people brought here illegally as children, provided they attend college or serve in the military and meet other key requirements. It also frees up law enforcement resources to focus on individuals who threaten public safety and national security, while removing the specter of deportation for these young men and women who are assets to our country. [S. 2205, Senate Vote 394, 10/24/07; S. 729, Introduced 03/26/09; S. 3454, Senate Vote 238, 09/21/10; H.R. 5281, Senate Vote 278, 12/18/10 ; S. 744, Senate Vote 168, 06/27/13; Reid letter to President Obama, 04/13/11; U.S. Department of Homeland Security Memo, 06/15/12]

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.

★ **Championing Comprehensive Health Insurance Reform.** Senator Reid led the charge for major health care reform, resulting in the passage of the *Affordable Care Act* and the *Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act*. Latinos are less likely to have health insurance than any other Americans: they make up about one-third of all uninsured in the United States. Because of health insurance reform, Latinos in Nevada will enjoy quality, affordable health coverage. *The Affordable Care Act* will provide 10.2 million uninsured Hispanic Americans – almost 160,000 in Nevada alone – with an opportunity to get affordable health insurance coverage. The 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, encouraging businesses to provide health care benefits, and provides additional resources for Community Health Centers which provide comprehensive, culturally competent, quality primary health care services to many Latinos. [Kaiser Family Foundation; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; 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]

★ **Strengthening Nevada Check Up.** Senator Reid was instrumental in the passage of the *Children's*

*Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 (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 more than 6.5 million children in the United States who are uninsured, and tens of thousands of them are Latino children in Nevada. This legislation extended health insurance to 4 million children who would otherwise lack coverage, including as many as 121,000 in Nevada. Senator Reid was also instrumental in ensuring that Nevada Check Up was extended and funded as part of the *Affordable Care Act*, and he is leading the fight against efforts to eliminate that funding and destroy the program. [H.R. 2, Senate Vote 31, 1/29/09; U.S. Census Bureau; National Council of La Raza; H.R. 3590, Senate Vote 396, 12/24/09, P.L. 111-148]*

★ **Disproportionate Health Concerns Affecting the Latino Community.** Senator Reid understands

that Latinos have unique health care needs and challenges, which vary among Latino subgroups, making generalizations about this population difficult and demonstrating the need for health disparities data collection by country of origin and ethnicity. The Latino community is disproportionately affected by asthma, diabetes, obesity, and infant mortality. Recognizing the need to support innovative research that may lead to new intervention and treatment methods for these diseases, Senator Reid has consistently supported increasing federal funding to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH). [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; H.R. 1, Senate Vote 64, 02/13/09, P.L. 111-005; H.R. 810, Senate Vote 206, 07/18/06; S. 5, Senate Vote 127, 04/11/07; H.R. 1256, Senate Vote 207, 06/11/09, P.L. 111-031; H.R. 1157, Unanimous Consent, 09/27/08, P.L. 110-354; H.R. 1553, Unanimous Consent, 07/16/08, P.L. 110-285; H.R. 1132, Unanimous Consent, 03/29/07, P.L. 110-018]

Senator Reid Continues to Support the Growth of Small Businesses. According to the Small Business Administration (SBA) Office of Advocacy, small businesses created about 70 percent of net new jobs annually over the last decade. Small businesses, Hispanic-owned and otherwise, serve as the engine that drives job creation across the nation. In Nevada, there are more than 222,000 small businesses that generate \$8 billion dollars annually – 18,000 of these small businesses are Hispanic-owned. Senator Reid understands that small businesses, which are the backbone of Nevada's economy, were hardest hit by the recession. That is why he has worked tirelessly to provide tax relief for small business owners; to ensure they have access to credit to meet immediate payroll demands and long-term capital investments; and to make it easier for small businesses to provide health insurance benefits for their employees. Most recently, he fought to pass the *Small Business Jobs Act*, legislation crafted specifically to help small businesses grow and hire hardworking Nevadans by increasing access to capital, providing some \$12 billion in tax incentives for small business job creation, and promoting entrepreneurship through contracting parity and export assistance. Thanks to this law, Nevada received a \$13 million grant to support small business lending programs and business owners were able to deduct the cost of health insurance incurred in 2010 for themselves and their family members. This law also improved contracting opportunities for small businesses by creating a level playing field for restricted competition programs and holding large business prime contractors accountable for prompt payment to small business subcontractors. Lastly, the *Small Business Jobs Act* provided relief to community

partners such as Women's Business Centers (WBCs), which provide assistance to small businesses in underserved communities, and an additional \$50 million for the Small Business Development Centers to provide technical assistance to small business owners and entrepreneurs. [H.R. 1, Senate Vote 64, 02/13/09, P.L. 111-5; H.R. 3548, Senate Vote 334, 11/04/09, P.L. 111-092; H.R. 2847, Senate Vote 23, 02/22/10, Senate Vote 25, 02/24/10, P.L. 111-147; H.R. 4213, Senate Vote 48, 03/10/2010, Senate Vote 215, 07/21/10, P.L. 111-205; S.Amdt. 3852, Senate Vote 205, 07/17/00; H.R. 3590, Senate Vote 396, 12/24/2009, P.L. 111-148; H.R.5297, Senate Vote 202, 06/29/10, Senate Vote 237, 09/16/10, P.L. 111-240]

Senator Reid is Working to Boost Our Economy By Creating New Jobs, Raising the Minimum Wage, and Protecting Consumers. Senator Reid helped lead passage of critical legislation to boost the economy, ensure workers receive fair pay, and strengthen consumer protections.

★ **Creating Jobs.** Understanding the importance of the tourism industry in Nevada and our nation, Senator Reid championed the passage of the *Travel Promotion Act* to create a public private-partnership to help promote United States tourism abroad. The increased travel to the United States partially as a result of the *Travel Promotion Act* has created 40,000 American jobs – all at no cost to American taxpayers. Senator Reid helped pass the *Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment Act* of 2010 (HIRE Act), which helped Nevada businesses put Nevadans back to work by offering tax credits and incentives to employers for hiring people who are currently out of work. From February 2010 to October 2010, an estimated 10.6 million workers, including almost two million Hispanic Americans, who had been unemployed for eight weeks or longer, were hired by employers who were eligible for the *HIRE Act* payroll tax exemption. The law also helped small businesses expand by allowing them write off costs for major purchases. Through and extension of the Build America Bonds program and the highway extension, Senator Reid helped 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 led the passage

of the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* (Recovery Act), which brought \$3 billion in federal funding to Nevada and created or saved 29,000 jobs in Nevada. [S. 1023, Senate Vote 272, 09/09/09, P.L. 111-145; U.S. Travel Association; H.R. 2847, Senate Vote 55, 03/17/10, P.L. 111-147; U.S. Department of the Treasury; H.R. 1, Senate Vote 64, 02/13/09, P.L. 111-005]

★ **Raising the Minimum Wage.** In 2012, more than 3.5 million people, in the United States were paid at or below the minimum wage – 20.2 percent 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. Despite the efforts of those against the wage hike, the *Fair Minimum Wage Act* of 2007 finally passed, along with an \$8.3 billion tax cuts for small businesses. The law raised the minimum wage from \$5.15 an hour to \$7.25 an hour over two years, directly or indirectly benefiting 13 million workers. Senator Reid continues to support paying Nevadans fairly and equally ensuring that workers' pay is in line with the cost of living. [Bureau of Labor Statistics; H.R. 2, Senate Vote 42, 02/01/07; H.R. 2206, Senate Vote 181, 05/24/07, P.L. 110-028]

★ **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 percent of Latinos pay more than a 20 percent annual percentage rate (APR) on their credit cards. Although only 58 percent of Latinos own a credit card compared to 73 percent of Whites, 48.4 percent of Latinos carry debt compared to only 46.1 percent 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 created 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; Démos; National Council of La Raza; H.R. 4173, Senate Vote 162, 05/20/10, Senate Vote 208, 07/15/10, P.L. 111-203]

★ **Senator Reid Protected Middle-Class Families 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 the AMT in 2009. Senator Reid worked hard to extend AMT relief for an additional three years in the budget passed by the 111th Congress. The *American Taxpayer Relief Act* permanently indexed AMT for inflation, protecting taxpayers from owing the government based solely on inflation. [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 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 continues to fight for out-of-work Nevadans to make sure they have the unemployment benefits they need to provide for their families as they look for work. In addition to helping those who are out of work through no fault of their own, providing unemployment benefits is one of the most cost effective ways to stimulate the economy. At the beginning of this most recent economic downturn, Senator Reid pushed to provide for federal unemployment benefits. When the economic

downturn proved to be worse than expected and unemployed workers were having difficulty finding employment, Senator Reid fought to increase weekly benefits by \$25, provide longer benefits for high unemployment states such as Nevada, and continue the program during the recovery stage of the economic downturn. Nationwide, the average Latino unemployment rate as of August 2013 was approximately 9.2 percent with nearly 2.3 million Latinos out of work. In Nevada, the unemployment rate for 2012 averaged 13.6 percent for Latinos. [H.R.

264, Senate Vote 162, 06/26/08, P.L. 110-252; H.R. 6867, Voice Vote, 11/20/08, P.L. 110-449; H.R. 1, Senate Vote 64, 02/13/09, P.L. 111-005; 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; Bureau of Labor Statistics]

★ **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 more than 20 percent of Hispanic households experience food insecurity; that is, they are unable to afford quality food or sufficient amounts of food. SNAP is the largest food assistance program in the country. Each month, nearly 354,900 Nevadans rely on SNAP to put food on their tables. Additionally, as part of the FY 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. He 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. Most recently, the *Agriculture Act* (the 2014 Farm Bill) was signed into law. This legislation ensures that every dollar in food assistance goes to families in need by closing loopholes, cracking down on abuse and improving program integrity, and reducing the deficit without cutting standard benefits or removing any needy family from the program. [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, P.L. 111-296; PL-113-7902/7/2014]

★ **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 to spur job creation and encourage saving and investment in our future. In 2012, Senator Reid led the Senate in passing a plan to continue tax cuts for 98 percent of Americans and ensure that middle-class Nevada families across the country did not face an income tax increase in 2013. The *American Taxpayer Relief Act*, which President Obama signed into law on January 2, 2013, permanently extended key middle-class tax cuts – including deductions for state and local taxes, qualified tuition and related expenses, qualified expenses for teachers, and mortgage insurance premiums – and established a fairer tax code by asking the wealthiest Americans to pay slightly more in taxes. In 2009, 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 \$1,000 Child Tax Credit (CTC) 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 Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) in 2009. Senator Reid fought to make sure the Child Tax Credit expansions enacted in the *Recovery Act* were extended to continue to help hard-working Latino families who on average earn \$21,000 a year. Senator Reid knows that without the CTC four million Hispanic children will go without food, books and other necessities, and for that reason, he has defended the credit from numerous attempts to repeal it. He also fought to make the tax code fairer for Nevada taxpayers and successfully advocated to extend marriage penalty

relief permanently. [H.R. 8, Senate vote 251, 1/1/2013, P.L. 112-240; 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 is Fighting to Stop Foreclosures and Keep Nevadans in Their Homes. Nevada continues to recover from the housing crisis in which 1 in 5 loans to Latinos resulted 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 incentivized lenders to negotiate loan modifications with borrowers at high risk of foreclosure and provided housing counseling resources for borrowers to help prevent foreclosure; allocated resources for advertisements in Spanish to help eliminate language barriers and prevent mortgage-fraud scammers from preying on Latino homebuyers; and protected 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 Hardest Hit Fund, providing more than \$7.6 billion in aid for homeowners, including more than \$190 million to assist unemployed and underemployed homeowners who owe more than their home is now worth. Senator Reid fought for refinance programs to be more responsive to the needs of Nevadans by supporting the Administration's efforts to assist homeowners who are underwater in their mortgages with the Home Affordable Refinance Program (HARP) and Home Affordable Modification Program (HAMP) to more effectively assist with the refinancing process. As of June 2013, more than 70,000 Nevada households have benefited from these programs. [Center for Responsible Lending, 2011; S. 896, Senate Vote 185, 05/06/09; Reid Floor Speech, 05/04/09, P.L. 111-022; Reid Letter to Secretaries Geithner and Donovan, 12/18/09; Federal Housing Finance Agency; U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; Federal Housing Finance Agency, Refinance Report, Second Quarter 2013; U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, December 2013 Scorecard]

Senator Reid Has Long Been an Advocate for Civil Rights and Equality. Senator Reid strives to achieve fairness in our society through a fair Census, a livable wage, equitable treatment for all people of our nation, and protecting the right for every citizen to vote.

★ **Ensuring a Fair Census.** Senator Reid believes that having an accurate Census count is critical for Nevada and the nation. The Constitution requires a population census to be carried out every 10 years. The first Census was carried out in 1790 and has been carried out every 10 years since with the goal of ensuring that every person living in the U.S. be counted, including citizen and non-citizen alike. Senator Reid has fought throughout the past three decades to ensure an accurate and fair Census count, despite partisan attempts to intimidate Latinos and

immigrants from participating in the Census. [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 back pay and civil rights protections for workers who face discrimination based on age, race, gender, national origin, religion, or disability. After having fought for the bill despite resistance from an unsupportive Bush Administration, Senator Reid led the successful

effort to send the *Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act* to the White House for President Obama's signature just a week after he took office in 2009. 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. In 2012, he attempted to bring the *Paycheck Fairness Act* to a vote before the full Senate, but was disappointed when his colleagues on the other side of the aisle chose to block the Senate from considering this important legislation. Although a majority of Senators voted in favor of considering the bill, it failed to garner the 60 votes necessary to overcome the legislative hurdle. As a cosponsor of this important legislation in the 113th Congress, Senator Reid will continue to fight against workplace inequality. [S. 181, Senate Vote 14, 01/27/09, P.L. 111-002; S. 182, Introduced 01/08/09; S. 3772, Introduced 09/13/10, Senate Vote 115, 06/05/12; S. 797, Introduced 04/12/11; S. 3220, Introduced 05/22/12; S. 84, Introduced 01/23/13]

★ **Strengthening Hate Crimes Prevention.**

Throughout his career in Congress, Senator Reid has been a strong supporter of legislation that would deter and eradicate hate crimes. In 2009, he 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 law protects Latinos and other Americans from heinous and violent crimes based on bigotry and prejudice. It also expands the 1969 federal hate crimes law, which already protected 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; H.R.2647, Senate Vote 327, 10/22/09, P.L. 111-84]

★ **Fought for Homeowners in Bankruptcy.**

To help distressed homeowners that turn to bankruptcy as a last resort, Senator Reid voted to include provisions in important housing legislation that would permit bankruptcy judges to modify mortgages on primary residences. [S.Amdt. 4388, Senate Vote 88, 04/03/08; S.Amdt. 1014, Senate Vote 174, 04/30/09]

★ **Protecting the Right for Every American to Vote.** The *Voting Rights Act* of 1965 is one of the most important laws Congress has ever passed, and it has been renewed four times since it was first enacted. Senator Reid strongly supported the most recent renewal of this landmark legislation in 2006, which passed by overwhelming bipartisan majorities of 98-0 in the Senate and 390-33 in the House of Representatives before being signed into law by President George W. Bush. On June 25, 2013, the Supreme Court struck down a crucial section of the *Voting Rights Act* in a 5-4 decision in the case of *Shelby County v. Holder*, effectively eliminating an essential enforcement mechanism for the law's prohibition of racial and other forms of discrimination in voting. Protecting every American's fundamental right to vote is an issue Democrats and Republicans should find common ground, which is why Senator Reid will be working with his colleagues on both sides of the aisle to ensure that Congress rights the wrong of this decision and that we do not turn back the clock on America's democratic progress. [S.Res. 232, Introduced 07/29/05; S. 2703, Introduced 05/03/06; H.R. 9, Senate Vote 212, 07/20/06, P.L. 109-246]