



SENATOR HARRY REID, MAJORITY LEADER FIGHTING TO KEEP FAMILIES TOGETHER



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 floor time to this issue than any other. He has fought to secure the resources necessary for our country's border and national security and was instrumental in securing a \$3 billion surge of funding for much-needed resources along our southern and northern borders. He has made reuniting and keeping families together a top priority in immigration reform and has a long history of support for the protection of refugees.

Senator Reid Believes in Tough, Fair, and Practical Immigration Reform That Protects Our Economic and National Security.

Reform should include strong and effective enforcement of our borders, tough sanctions against employers who hire immigrants who are not authorized to work, reform of our legal immigration system, and a requirement that immigrants here illegally register with the government, learn English, pay their taxes, pass criminal background checks, pay penalties for being here unlawfully, and go to the back of the line – or face deportation. Reform should also reunite and keep Nevada's families together. He believes that comprehensive 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. Immigration reform should protect and strengthen the U.S. economy, while safeguarding the rights and wages of American workers.

Senator Reid feels strongly that we must always remember ours is a nation founded on and built by immigrants. Our grandparents and great-grandparents came to this country to pursue the American dream, and we should honor that proud heritage as we work to reform our immigration laws.

Senator Reid Helped to Ensure Senate Passage of a Comprehensive Immigration Reform Bill. In 2006, Senator Reid led the successful effort to pass the *Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act* in the United States Senate. When that bill was not enacted because the House and Senate could not agree on a path forward, he fought hard to pass an immigration reform bill again in 2007. Although reform has yet to become a reality, Senator Reid remains committed to enacting an immigration reform bill as soon as possible. In

HIGHLIGHTS OF SENATOR REID'S IMMIGRATION RECORD

- ★ Senator Reid Believes in Tough, Fair, and Practical Immigration Reform That Protects Our Economic and National Security
- ★ Senator Reid Helped to Ensure Senate Passage of a Comprehensive Immigration Reform Bill
- ★ Senator Reid is a Strong Supporter and Original Cosponsor of the DREAM Act
- ★ Senator Reid Supports the Agricultural Job Opportunities, Benefits, and Security Act
- ★ Senator Reid Believes Immigration Reform is Vital to Ensuring Our National Security
- ★ Senator Reid Believes in Reuniting and Keeping Families Together
- ★ Senator Reid Has a History of Support for the Protection of Refugees and Individuals Seeking Asylum in the United States

April 2010, Senator Reid and several of his colleagues unveiled a framework for the Real Enforcement with Practical Answers for Immigration Reform (REPAIR) Proposal, reflecting the bipartisan work that has taken place on this issue to date, as an invitation to their Republican colleagues to work together with Democrats to fix our broken immigration system. [S. 2611, Senate Vote 157, 05/25/06; S. 1639, Senate Vote 235, 06/28/07]

Senator Reid is a Strong Supporter and Original Cosponsor of the DREAM Act. The *Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act* (DREAM) Act would provide students brought to the U.S. illegally years ago through no fault of their own 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 was able to bring 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. As a down payment for immigration reform this September, Senator Reid attempted to bring the DREAM Act up for a vote again, announcing that he intended to offer it as an amendment to the Department of Defense Authorization bill. Unfortunately, every Senate Republican voted against even allowing the Senate to proceed to considering the defense bill, preventing the DREAM Act from being offered as an amendment. [S. 2205, Senate Vote 394, 10/24/07; S. 729, Introduced 03/26/09; S. 3454, Senate Vote 238, 09/21/10]

Senator Reid Supports the Agricultural Job Opportunities, Benefits, and Security Act (AgJOBS). AgJOBS is legislation representing a major compromise between agricultural employers and farm workers that would help to ensure a stable and legal agricultural workforce and protect the sustainability of the American agricultural industry. AgJOBS would make revisions to the H-2A temporary foreign agricultural worker program and provide an opportunity for immigrant farm workers in the country illegally to continue to work in the United States legally if they pay a fine and back taxes, pass criminal background checks, and commit to working in the U.S. agricultural industry for the next five years. [S.Amdt. 375 to H.R. 1268, Senate Vote 98, 04/19/05; Senate Vote 233, S.Amdt. 3258 to S.2260, 07/23/98; S. 1038, Introduced 05/14/09]

Senator Reid Believes Immigration Reform is Vital to Ensuring Our National Security. Securing our borders will help protect our nation against drug traffickers, criminal organizations, and others who might seek to do us harm. Senator Reid has supported reform of our system so that people can no longer cross our borders without our knowledge or permission and we can track those who enter our country on legal visas and ensure their deportation if they overstay their welcome. He supports the use of smart and advanced border-control technologies and believes we must provide the resources and training for the personnel necessary to bolster our apprehension capabilities at the border. Senator Reid has a long record of supporting funding increases to deploy thousands of additional Border Patrol Agents, providing resources to assist border communities, and funding enforcement initiatives within the Department of Homeland Security to help protect our borders.

Senator Reid took the initiative in improving border security as the original sponsor of the *Improving America's Security Act of 2007*. Passing that same year, this legislation improves communications capabilities among emergency response providers near border areas, mandates the hiring of hundreds of new Customs and Border Protections officers, and supports the integration of chemical and nuclear detection equipment with border security systems. Senator Reid was also instrumental in securing a \$3 billion surge in emergency spending in 2008 to substantially increase the number of Border Patrol

Agents; deploy more unmanned aerial vehicles, ground-based radar, and camera towers to help patrol isolated areas of the border; construct roads along the border for the use of Border Patrol vehicles, as well as additional miles of vehicle and pedestrian fencing; end catch-and-release; and achieve and maintain operational control over the international land and maritime borders of the United States. Most recently, in August 2010, Senator Reid led the passage of a \$600 million border security package that allocates funding to hire an additional 1,000 Border Patrol agents, 250 new Customs and Border Protection officers, and 250 new Immigration and Customs Enforcement personnel. Additionally, this legislation funds upgrades for communications equipment used by border security agents, as well as the purchase of additional unmanned drones to curb human trafficking and drug smuggling.

Since Senator Reid became Majority Leader in 2006, the Senate has passed legislation adding more than 6,000 border patrol agents and increased annual funding for Customs and Border Protection to over \$10 billion. Thanks in part to these stronger border security and enforcement efforts, the number of immigrants entering our country illegally has decreased by two-thirds, and for the first time in 20 years, there has been a significant decline in the number of immigrants living illegally in our country. [H.R. 1559, Senate Vote 115, 04/02/03; H.R. 1559, Senate Vote 119, 04/03/03; H.R. 2555, Senate Vote 300, 07/24/03; H.R. 4954, Senate Vote 245, 09/13/06; H.R. 4954, Senate Vote 246, 09/13/06; H.R. 4954, Senate Vote 248, 09/14/06; H.R. 2764, Senate Vote 325, 09/06/07; S. 4, Senate Vote 56, 03/01/07; S. 4, Senate Vote 73, 03/13/07, P.L. 110-53; S.Amdt. 2480 to H.R. 2638/S.Amdt.2383, Senate Vote 278, 07/26/07; Senator Graham (SC). “Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2008.” Congressional Record: 153:110 (July 26, 2007) p. S10062; Senator Pryor (AR). “Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2008.” Congressional Record: 153:110 (July 26, 2007) p. S10063; H.R. 1, Senate Vote 61, 02/10/09; FY2010 Conference Summary: Homeland Security Appropriations; H.R. 6080, Unanimous Consent, 08/12/10, P.L. 111-230; Pew Hispanic Center, 09/01/10]

Senator Reid Believes in Reuniting and Keeping Families Together. Senator Reid has fought to eliminate the long backlogs that keep families apart while they wait to reunite legally, which now range from five to twenty-three years. He believes we need immigration reform so that parents are no longer separated from their U.S. citizen children, and husbands and wives from their U.S. citizen spouses. Family unity is a fundamental cornerstone of our nation’s immigration system and a core American value. It is a contributing factor in maintaining a stable community that supports the economy; countless examples of entrepreneurialism within immigrant communities show that families, by living together and sharing resources, contribute to the economy in powerful and sustaining ways.

- ***Widow and Orphan Benefits*** Senator Reid cosponsored and helped to ensure enactment of a fix to the “widow and orphan penalty,” so that widows, widowers, and orphans of U.S. citizens will not be deported in cases where an application for immigrant status is underway, but the U.S. relative dies before the application process is completed. Before the enactment of this fix, even widows of U.S. citizens killed in Iraq had faced deportation. [H.R. 2892, Senate Vote 323, 10/20/09, P.L. 111-083]
- ***Filipino Veteran Immigration Backlogs*** Senator Reid cosponsored and supported efforts to reunite aging Filipino World War II veterans – who fought valiantly for the United States alongside American soldiers and are now U.S. citizens – with their children who have been waiting for years to join them while stuck in long immigration backlogs. [S. 671, Introduced 02/16/07; S.Amdt. 1186 to S. 1348, Senate Vote 176, 05/24/07; S.Amdt. 4029 to S. 2611, Voice Vote, 05/18/06]
- ***Family Reunification*** Senator Reid has strongly supported family reunification and the elimination of the long family backlogs and has opposed provisions that would make it more difficult for families

to stay together. He has cosponsored and supported provisions to ensure that U.S. citizens who have played by the rules and submitted applications for adult children and siblings do not lose their place in line; eliminate the family backlogs within an 8-year period; allow green card holders who are playing by the rules to be more quickly reunited with their minor children and spouses (instead of waiting five years or more); protect the ability of U.S. citizens to petition for their parents to join them in the United States; and enable Congress to reconsider any changes made to our current legal immigration system in five years in order to assess the impact on family-based immigration. [S.Amdt 1194 to S. 1348, Senate Vote 193, 06/6/07; S.Amdt. 1194 to S. 1348, Senate Vote 193, 06/6/07; S. Amdt. 1183 to S. 1348, Senate Vote 195, 06/06/07; S. Amdt. 1199 to S. 1348, Considered 05/24/07; S. Amdt. 1202 to S. 1348, Senate Vote 202, 06/06/07]

Senator Reid Has a History of Support for the Protection of Refugees and Individuals Seeking Asylum in the United States. Thirty years ago, the United States made a commitment to assisting refugees who flee their native countries for fear of persecution or even death, and Senator Reid believes we must live up to this promise. Senator Reid has voted to support individuals fleeing persecution in China because they refuse to abort a pregnancy or submit to sterilization in compliance with China’s “one couple, one child” policy; assist individuals fleeing the former Soviet Union and Indochina in qualifying for refugee status; keep refugees from Central America united with their U.S. citizen and permanent resident family members; resettle Iraqi and Afghan refugees arriving in the U.S. under the Special Immigrant Visa program; and provide safeguards against faulty asylum procedures and improve conditions of detention for asylum seekers, in a manner consistent with the key recommendations of the congressionally established U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. [S.Amdt. 324 to S. 1160, Senate Vote 130, 07/20/89; S.Amdt 1327 to H.R. 2333, Senate Vote 14, 02/1/94; S.Amdt 1253 to S.1156, Senate Vote 269, 10/7/97; S.Amdt 3400 to H.R.3043, Senate Vote 386, 10/23/07; S.Amdt. 1191 to S. 1348, Unanimous Consent, 06/06/07]

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