



Special Report

BYRON L. DORGAN
CHAIRMAN

DPC Staff Contact: Erika Moritsugu and Jesse Comart (202) 224-3232

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DPC Press Contact: Barry Piatt (202) 224-0577

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Democratic Accomplishments in the 111th Congress: Honoring the Latino Community's Call for Change

"For centuries, the Hispanic community has contributed to the progress of our country's greatness. We see this progress on the battlefields as well as in our classrooms. We see this progress in scientific labs as well as in our federal courts. We see this progress in the sports arena as well as in the arts. We see this progress in the crop fields as well as in our small businesses."

- Majority Leader Harry Reid, 9/15/10

The last decade has been a difficult one for the American people. While the nation has experienced great heights, such as the election of the nation's first African American president and confirmation of the first Latino on the United States Supreme Court, we have also experienced great lows, including war and severe economic recession. And while no American has escaped the burden of these challenges, it can hardly be denied that middle- and aspiring middle-class Americans have experienced them more acutely. Fed up with misplaced priorities and failed policies and ready to get the nation moving in the right direction again, in 2008 Latinos went to the polls and called for change. Democrats could not have agreed more and are now working each day to honor that call.

In 2009, Senate Democrats worked diligently to address issues important to the estimated 45 million Latinos living in the United States. (Pew Hispanic Center, [Statistical Portrait of Hispanics in the United States, 2007](#)). Senate Democrats understand that the Latino community, as the largest minority population in the United States, faces numerous disparities in employment, health care, education, and wealth that must be addressed through legislation. In 2009, Senate Democrats ensured the passage of critical legislation to:

- [Jumpstart job creation for Latinos struggling with high unemployment rates](#) (*American Recovery and Reinvestment Act*);
- [Secure the continuation of critical safety-net programs for Latino families](#) (*Worker, Homeownership, and Business Assistance Act*);

- [Stabilize the housing market by preventing foreclosures and improving access to home loans for Latinos](#) (Helping Families Save Their Homes Act and Worker, Homeownership and Business Assistance Act);
- [Secure health care for millions of additional children](#) (Children’s Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act);
- [Provide authority to the FDA to regulate the manufacture, marketing and sale of tobacco](#) (Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act);
- [Help make college more affordable](#) (Consolidated Appropriations Act); and
- [Protect Latinos from unfair and abusive credit card industry practices](#) (Credit Card Accountability Responsibility and Disclosure Act).

As we begin the second session of the 111th Congress, Latinos can be assured that Senate Democrats will continue to champion legislation that supports and encourages the continued success of the Latino community.

See [Democratic Accomplishments in the 111th Congress: Honoring the American People’s Call for Change](#) for a more detailed description of Democratic Accomplishments in the 111th Congress.

Democrats are Working to Strengthen the Economy and Jumpstart Job Creation for Latinos

The recession is touching every community. In the past two years, the unemployment rate for Latinos has nearly doubled, jumping up to 12.9 percent in December 2009. (Center for American Progress, [The State of the Minorities in the Economy](#)) Democrats understand that too many individuals have lost their jobs through no fault of their own and need help.

Senate Democrats passed economic recovery legislation to pull the nation’s economy back from the brink of disaster and onto the road to recovery. During the Bush Administration, life for millions of American families grew less affordable and less secure. In 2008, the poverty rate for Latinos grew to 23.2 percent, an increase of 1.7 percent since 2007. (U.S. Census, [Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage](#)) Last January, the 111th Congress and the Obama Administration inherited an economy plagued by lower wages, fewer jobs, declining home values, foreclosures, and skyrocketing costs for basic necessities like gas, health care, and college tuition. Not since the Great Depression has the need for a strong economic recovery package been so urgent and clear.

Congress passed the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009*. The *Recovery Act* took steps to:

- Save or create an estimated 3.5 million jobs through investments in transportation, federal, housing, broadband, and environmental infrastructure; investments in state fiscal relief; investments in energy innovation; investments in health-care modernization, and tax incentives for small businesses;
- Provide the Making Work Pay tax credit for 95 percent of working families; expand the Child Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit; expand the First Time Homebuyer Tax Credit; and extend tax relief for small businesses; and

- Extend a hand of help to those Americans hit hardest by the economic crisis, investing billions in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), extension of federal emergency unemployment benefits, state fiscal relief to ensure continuation of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, subsidies for COBRA Continuation Coverage for unemployed workers, and relief payments for seniors, veterans and other Americans in need.

The Recovery Act is working. While it took years to create our current economic mess, the *Recovery Act* has made a difference even though only about half of the investments have been distributed thus far. The measure staved off an even more severe recession, prevented further job loss, generated economic activity, and laid a foundation for sustainable growth.

Congress passed legislation to stabilize the housing market for homeowners, renters, and lenders. As Democrats work to get the economy growing again by making long-term investments, creating jobs and providing middle-class tax relief, we have not forgotten the origin of the current recession: the crash of the home mortgage market. The 111th Congress passed the *Helping Families Save Their Homes Act* to prevent unnecessary foreclosures, improve access to affordable home loans, increase the availability of credit, protect renters, and prevent homelessness.

In 2008, more than 2.3 million U.S. properties faced foreclosure, an 81 percent increase from the previous year. It is estimated that by the end of 2009, more than 40 million homeowners had experienced a decline in their home values due to surrounding foreclosures, at a total cost of \$325 billion.

Latinos were hit especially hard by predatory mortgage lending. Individuals in the Latino community were 30 percent more likely than white Americans to receive a high-cost loan. A study in 2008 estimated that Latinos with subprime loans will lose between \$75 billion and \$98 billion. (United for a Fair Economy, [Foreclosed, State of the Dream 2008](#)) The rising cost of owning a home is weighing heavily on Latino families. Senate Democrats understand this anxiety and will continue to address the needs of families threatened with losing their homes.

Congress has passed legislation to ensure the continuation of critical safety-net and economic recovery programs. The Great Recession inherited from the Bush Administration was deeper and more severe than anyone – economists and elected officials alike – could have predicted. Programs that were originally set to expire have been extended to ensure that American families survive these difficult times, the economic recovery gains of the past few months are sustained, and the economy is stable. To this end Congress has taken steps to ensure the continuation of important programs. In November, Congress passed the fully-offset *Worker, Homeownership, and Business Assistance Act of 2009*.

This legislation is directly helping Latinos who cannot find work. As of August 2012, Latinos had an unemployment rate of 12.1 percent. (Bureau of Labor Statistics, [August 2010](#)) The reality for Latino youth is even worse. In December 2009, the unemployment rate for young Latinos was 30.2 percent. (Center for American Progress, [The State of Minorities in the Economy](#)) The legislation specifically:

Extended unemployment insurance benefits

- Extended unemployment insurance by up to 14 additional weeks for jobless workers; and extended benefits for six additional weeks for workers in states with unemployment levels over 8.5 percent; and
- Ensured the additional \$25 per week in unemployment insurance benefits provided by the *Recovery Act* do not count against a family's eligibility for the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program, formerly known as food stamps.

Extended and enhanced homebuyer assistance

- Extended through April 30, 2010 the tax credit for first-time homebuyers (up to \$8,000 or up to 10 percent of the purchase price of the residence), allowing 60 days to close, provided that the homes are under a binding contract by that date;
- Provided homebuyer tax credit of up to \$6,500 to owners who have been in the same principal residence for five consecutive years during the previous eight years; and
- Extended the tax credit for one year for military personnel serving outside the United States for at least 90 days in 2009 – 2010.

As we continue to move through the second session of the 111th Congress, Latinos can be assured that Senate Democrats are committed to ensuring our nation recovers from the current economic recession.

Democrats are Working to Support Our Latino Military Families and Keep America Safe

Latinos have a strong history of bravely serving our country. There are currently over 1.3 million Latino veterans who have served in the US military. (U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Veteran Population 2007, [Table 5L](#)). Their needs are being served by the strong leadership of Senate Democrats who are committed to ensuring that the best care and services are available to our service members and their families.

Senate Democrats led passage of a Fiscal Year 2010 defense appropriations bill that puts our troops first. In December, the Senate passed the *Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2010*, to provide critical funds in support of our troops and military families; to fund overseas operations in Iraq and Afghanistan; and to make vital investments in the health and readiness of our Armed Forces.

Congress advanced a bipartisan defense authorization bill to advance critical national security priorities. In October, the President signed the *National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010*. Funding provided in the bill will support critical national security priorities to:

- Provide fair compensation and first rate health care, address the needs of the wounded, ill and injured, and improve the quality of life of the men and women of the all-volunteer force (active duty, National Guard and Reserves) and their families; and

- Provide our servicemen and women with the resources, training, technology, equipment (especially force protection) and authorities they need to succeed in combat and stability operations.

Senate Democrats passed a Fiscal Year 2010 appropriations bill to bolster our homeland security. In October, the President signed into law the *Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act 2010*. The legislation allocates funding to support critical homeland security priorities for border protections.

Congress passed legislation to support our nation’s veterans, service members and their families. As part of the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2010*, Congress provided funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), for military construction and family housing, and for military construction projects in support of the war in Afghanistan. For the first time, the bill included advance appropriations to fund medical programs for the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure a stable and uninterrupted source of funding for medical care for veterans.

The Senate passed a sweeping reform bill to improve the care of wounded veterans. Overcoming months of Republican obstructionism, the Senate passed nearly unanimously the *Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2009*. The legislation merges two veterans health bills to establish an unprecedented permanent program to train, support, and assist the caregivers of disabled veterans; improve care for veterans in rural areas, reduce veteran homelessness, improve care for women veterans; and improve VA's ability to recruit and retain a strong workforce and provide quality assurance at its medical facilities.

There have been 216 Latinos wounded in Operation Enduring Freedom and 1,991 Latinos wounded in Operation Iraqi Freedom. (Data available [here](#) and [here](#)) Senate Democrats are committed to helping these wounded soldiers recover with improved care and support.

Democrats are Working to Ensure a Healthy America for all Latinos

Too many Latinos do not have health insurance. In 2008, 30 percent of Latinos did not have health insurance. (U.S. Census, [Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage](#)) Senate Democrats understand that this statistic is appalling. In the 111th Congress, Democrats have been working to address the high number of Latinos living and working without any health insurance to protect their families.

Congress passed one of the most important pieces of legislation in generations: health insurance reform. The Senate bill, the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act*, passed in December. The House bill, the *Affordable Health Care for America Act*, passed in November. As we take the final steps necessary to make health reform law, the American people can rest assured that Congressional Democrats are committed to ensuring they receive quality, affordable health care by:

- Eliminating gender discrimination in coverage and limiting variations based on age
- Prohibiting coverage rescissions and
- Eliminating lifetime coverage limits and restricting the use of annual limits
- Eliminating co-payments and deductibles for preventive care

- banning denials due to pre-existing conditions
- Providing health insurance choices to cover more than 94 percent of all legal residents under age 65 while reducing the deficit
- Extending the solvency of Medicare
- Reducing the number of uninsured by 31 million
- Reining in skyrocketing health care costs
- Making prescription drugs more affordable for seniors
- Reducing employee health care costs for small businesses

Congress overwhelmingly approved critical legislation to renew and expand the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). For the past twelve years, CHIP has played a crucial role in helping to reduce the rate of uninsured children from lower-income families. The program was set to expire in March 2009. After two years of hard work by Democrats to improve and expand health care for children, in February, the 111th Congress passed and the President signed the *Children’s Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009*. This bipartisan bill authorizes new funding for CHIP to provide quality health care coverage for almost 11 million children. The legislation will allow 6.7 million children to continue to receive health care coverage and extend coverage to 4.1 million children who are currently uninsured. This legislation provides a new option to states to remove the 5-year waiting period for legal immigrant children and pregnant women, providing those who qualify with immediate access to Medicaid and CHIP. In 2008, 17 percent of Latino children did not enjoy the benefits of health insurance. (U.S. Census, [Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage](#)) With the passage of CHIP, many of these children will now have access to critical health care and prevention services.

The CHIP legislation will also:

- Increase and target funding for states facing budget deficits;
- Improve state tools for outreach and enrollment;
- Provide bonus payments to states enrolling the lowest-income children;
- Improve the quality of health care for low-income children;
- Help reduce racial and ethnic disparities in coverage and quality;
- Improve access to critical benefits such as dental coverage; and
- Maintain state flexibility to set eligibility levels for the program based on the cost of living in each state.

Congress strongly supported legislation to protect our children and the public from the harmful effects of tobacco use. Due to the commitment of Senate Democrats and more than ten years of hard work, legislation granting the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) the authority to regulate the manufacture, marketing, and sale of tobacco was signed into law by the President in June.

Tobacco use in the United States is killing our citizens, costing us billions of dollars in health care costs, and reducing our economic productivity. As of 2007, 17.4 percent of Latino men and 8.4 percent of Latina women smoked cigarettes. (American Cancer Society, [Cancer Facts and Figures for Hispanics/Latinos, 2009-2011](#).)

More than 43 million Americans are addicted to cigarettes. Tobacco use kills more than 400,000 Americans each year, and an additional 50,000 non-smokers die prematurely

each year due to exposure to secondhand smoke. Americans' health suffers from tobacco use, with 8.6 million Americans currently suffering from a smoking-caused illness.

Nearly 90 percent of smokers begin as children and are addicted by the time they become adults. As of 2007, 18.7 percent of Latino boys and 14.6 percent of Latina girls smoked cigarettes. (American Cancer Society, [Cancer Facts and Figures for Hispanics/Latinos, 2009-2011](#).) The tobacco industry refers to our children as “replacement smokers,” and each day, more than 3,500 children try smoking for the first time, and more than 1,000 children become regular, daily smokers.

Now that the *Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act* has become law, the FDA has the authority to: regulate tobacco products, restrict tobacco advertising, prevent the sale of tobacco products to youth, require stronger warning labels, prevent misrepresentation by tobacco manufacturers, remove hazardous ingredients, set standards for so-called “reduced risk” products, and ensure tobacco companies, not American taxpayers, bear the cost of regulation.

Democrats are Working to Restore the American Dream

Latinos are suffering from the meltdown of the housing market. In 2006, 41 percent of all mortgages made to Latinos were subprime. (Home Mortgage Disclosure Act data, [The 2007 Annual Minority Leading Report](#)) Providing a stable home is one of the most basic concerns for families in today's uncertain climate. Senate Democrats are committed to ensuring that sustainable opportunities for home ownership and rental possibilities are available for Latino families.

Congress passed critical legislation to rebuild America's communities, restore the American dream of homeownership, and provide housing assistance to Americans in need. As part of the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2010*, Congressional Democrats provided funding for the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The bill provided:

Housing Assistance for Americans in Need

- Section 8 tenant-based rental assistance (24 percent of recipients are Latino), including funding for voucher renewals, tenant protection vouchers, Veterans Affairs Housing Vouchers, family unification incremental vouchers, and family self-sufficiency coordinators (HUD, [Resident Characteristics Report](#));
- Project-based Rental Assistance to also provide affordable housing to low-income families;
- Increased funding for maintenance, crime prevention, and energy costs for public housing;
- HOPE VI competitive grants to revitalize areas with deteriorating public housing projects;
- Home Investment Partnerships Program to provide assistance to state and local governments to expand the supply and affordability of housing to low-income people; and

- Capital grants to eligible entities for the acquisition, rehabilitation, or construction of housing for low-income seniors.

Restoring the American Dream of Homeownership

- Housing Counseling Assistance to continue pre-purchase counseling and foreclosure prevent counseling to homeowners; and
- \$233 million for the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation to counsel families in danger of losing their homes to foreclosure.

Community Development

- \$4.45 billion to fund community and economic development projects in 1,180 localities; and
- \$82 million for the Self-Help and Assisted Homeownership Program to assist low-income homebuyers who are willing to contribute to the building of their houses.

Democrats are Working to Educate Our Children and Train Our Workforce

Latinos make up roughly one-fifth of the public school students in the United States. Unfortunately, only 58 percent of Latinos graduate from high school. (NCLR, [The Latino High School Reform Project](#)) These figures demonstrate that it is critical for Latino children to have the support and resources needed to succeed in the classroom. (Pew Hispanic Center, [One-Five and Growing Fast](#))

Congressional Democrats made a down-payment on educational reform by investing in our nation’s most critical education programs. As part of the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2010*, Congress provided increased funding for programs under the Department of Education. The bill:

Makes College More Affordable

- The bill provides funding for the Pell Grant program. Pell grants provide need-based financial assistance to more than eight million low- and middle-income undergraduate students and their families pay for the costs of postsecondary education and vocational training. In 2008, 14.1 percent of Pell Grant recipients were Latino. (U.S. Department of Education, [National Center for Education Statistics](#))
- The bill also invests in federal supplemental educational opportunity grants, federal work study, and the Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnerships program.

Provides Grants for Disadvantaged Students

- The bill includes \$14.5 billion for Title I grants to school districts to help 20 million disadvantaged students in nearly 55,000 public schools obtain the education skills they need.

- The bill includes school improvements grants that are designated to help save 13,000 struggling schools across the country.

Supports Afterschool Programs

- The legislation provides \$1.17 billion to assist 21st Century Community Learning Centers provide a safe and supervised environment for students before and after the school day.

Congress invested in labor training programs aimed at helping unemployed workers survive during the economic recession and, ultimately, getting Americans back to work. As part of the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2010*, Congress provided increased funding for programs under the Department of Labor.

Employment and Training Administration. The legislation provides \$3.83 billion for training and employment services, including funding for: dislocated worker employment and training activities, adult employment and training state grants, youth employment and training state grants, transitional jobs, and green jobs.

Office of Job Corps. The appropriations legislation provides \$1.71 billion for Job Corps to provide at-risk youth with occupational and employment skills.

Democrats are Working to Protect Latino Consumers

Senate Democrats voted to protect millions of Americans from unfair, unjust, and unacceptable credit card industry practices. In May, the Senate approved the *Credit Card Accountability Responsibility and Disclosure Act* (the “CARD act”). This bipartisan legislation will stop credit card companies from misleading their customers with hidden charges and confusing terms. Specifically, the *CARD Act* will establish strong consumer protections, enhance consumer disclosures, protect young consumers and promote financial literacy.

By 2007, 73 percent of American families had a credit card, and 60 percent of those families carry a balance. The average balance on those cards was \$7,300 – a 30 percent rise since 2004. (Federal Reserve, [2/2009](#)) Today, Americans owe more than \$950 billion in revolving credit card debt. (Consumers Union, accessed [5/7/2009](#))

Latino families are more likely to suffer from high interest rates and fees. A study using data from 2004 found that almost 13 percent of Latinos pay more than a 20 percent annual percentage rate (APR) on their credit cards. (National Urban League Policy Institute, [Fact Sheet](#)) In addition, 26 percent of Latino card holders reported a late or missed payment in 2004 which increases the penalties paid to credit card companies. (Demos, [Who Pays? The Winners and Losers of Credit Card Deregulation](#))

The *CARD Act* will level the playing field and keep the rules consistent from beginning to end, saving families thousands of dollars a year. Democrats are committed to restoring confidence in our economy by looking out for consumers and keeping credit card companies honest.

Democrats are Working to Advance Civil Rights and Justice Issues Important to the Latino Community

The Democratic Congress passed legislation to retool the Department of Justice, protect the public, combat crime, fight terrorism, and curb the transfer of illegal narcotics. As part of the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2010*, Congress provided increased funding for programs under the Department of Justice and related agencies. The legislation provided for:

State and Local Law Enforcement and Crime Prevention Grants. The legislation provided \$3.71 billion for state and local law enforcement and crime prevention grants, including the Community Organized Policing Services (COPS), which gives police departments across the country the technology and training tools needed to prevent, detect, and stop traditional street crime.

Southwest Border Initiative. The legislation provided funding across several Department accounts to combat violence, illegal weapons transfer, and drug trafficking; capture dangerous criminals; and improve law enforcement at the Southwest Border.

The 111th Congress confirmed the most judicially-qualified nominee in decades to be the 111th Justice on the Supreme Court. On August 7, 2009 Senate Democrats had the unparalleled honor of confirming Second Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Sonia Sotomayor – perhaps the most judicially-qualified nominee in 70 years – to be an Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court. With 17 distinguished years on the bench, Justice Sotomayor is the nation’s 111th Justice but only the third woman and first Latino to serve on the Court.

Her success is an inspiration to all Americans, perhaps especially to women, minorities, and all those who have had to overcome financially meager beginnings; and her confirmation to the United States Supreme Court is a testimony to the attainability of the American Dream.

Congress, under the leadership of Democrats, passed legislation to strengthen law enforcement’s ability to monitor, investigate, prosecute, and protect Americans from hate crimes. As part of the *National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010*, Congress passed the *Matthew Shepard Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009*. The legislation recognizes that hate crimes pose serious and widespread national problems, which impact not only the actual victim but the community sharing the targeted traits of the victim, and that existing federal law is inadequate to provide assistance to states and local law enforcement in the investigation and prosecution of these crimes.

The legislation will strengthen the ability of federal, state, local, and tribal governments to investigate and prosecute hate crimes based on race, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or disability. The bill will also authorize grants to meet state, local, and tribal expenses involved in investigating and prosecuting hate crimes.

The 111th Congress passed a law to ensure fair pay for all Americans. While the battle for equality and civil rights is far from over, in January 2009, all those who believe in the promise of “equality and justice for all” achieved a major victory when President Obama signed the *Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009* into law. In doing so, Congress and President Obama ended a nearly two-year battle to overturn a Supreme Court decision that made it more difficult for victims of pay discrimination to seek redress and receive justice.

The *Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act* restored the “pay-check accrual” interpretation to ensure that employees who can prove pay discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin,

age or disability will not be barred from seeking redress because they did not learn they were victims of pay discrimination within six months after the discriminatory decision was first made.

Democrats are Working to Invest in Food Security and Combating Food Deficiencies

Senate Democrats made critical investments in child nutrition, conservation, and rural investments. While the economy is still in recovery, providing food for your family remains a daily challenge. Research shows 20 percent of Hispanic households experience food insecurity, meaning they are unable to afford quality or sufficient amounts food.

To combat these deficiencies, Senate Democrats passed the *Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008*, known as the Farm Bill, with an increase of \$10 billion in new funding for food stamps. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the largest food assistance program in the country. The *Recovery Act*, signed into law in February 2009, increased SNAP/Food Stamps benefits by about 19 percent, eased eligibility for certain jobless adults without dependents, and provided states with extra funding to administer the program. Additionally, as part of the Fiscal Year 2010 Agriculture Appropriations bill, states are eligible to participate in the federally-reimbursed Afterschool Supper Program. This program allows states to be reimbursed for providing a supper to children up to 18 years old who would otherwise go hungry.

In October 2009, President Obama signed the *Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010*. The legislation will help fund domestic food programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, as well as rural development and conservation investments. Specifically, the law:

Invests in child nutrition programs. The bill provides for child nutrition programs like the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Program, Summer Food Service Program, and Child and Adult Care Food programs. These programs serve nutritious lunches and breakfasts to children attending school and help to improve the health and well-being of the nation's children.

Invests in rural housing. The bill provides funding for the rural housing service which promotes economic development by helping to develop affordable and adequate housing throughout the nation's rural communities.

In August 2010, the Senate also passed legislation to help schools improve the nutritional quality of school meals, establish nutritional standards for all foods sold in schools, and expand access to programs that will reduce childhood hunger. The importance of these improvements were underscored in the USDA's November 2009 report, *Household Food Security in the United States*, which found that 14.6 percent of U.S. households (17 million households representing 49.1 million people, including 16.7 million children) were food insecure at least some time during the year. This legislation has also been championed by First Lady Michelle Obama and her Let's Move! Campaign.