

Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis



REPORTS TO WOMEN

SOLIS HONORS DOLORES HUERTA

Congresswoman Solis joined community activists on March 25, 2002, to recognize labor leader Dolores Huerta. As co-founder of the United Farm Workers, Dolores Huerta has fought for increased worker protections, higher wages and an end to the use of harmful pesticides. Last year, Congresswoman Solis introduced H.Con.Res. 177, a resolution to honor Dolores Huerta for her commitment to farm workers.



Congresswoman Solis discusses the resolution she introduced to honor Dolores Huerta's work with Lifetime's President Carole Black and labor leader Dolores Huerta during a Women's History Month event.

Addressing Domestic Violence

Nearly one-third of all women in the United States will report being physically or sexually abused by a partner during their lifetime. In minority communities, however, the rates are thought to be higher. Congresswoman Solis introduced two bills to help reduce domestic violence in our communities.

H.R. 4089 – “The Multi-Cultural Domestic Violence Prevention Act” would provide grants to organizations that wish to educate minority communities about domestic violence. “All too often, minority women don’t discuss domestic violence or report instances of abuse, either because they’re too scared or don’t know that services exist to help them,” Solis said. “This bill will help spread the word about domestic violence in various languages and in a culturally sensitive manner.”

H.R. 4091 – “The Domestic Violence Courts Assistance Act” would provide grants to communities that wish to create specialized domestic violence courts. “Specialized domestic violence courts cut the processing time of domestic violence cases, reduce the backlog of existing cases and raise the conviction rate of offenders,” Solis said.

Improving Our Welfare Program

As a Member of the House Education and the Workforce Committee and the Democratic Caucus Welfare Task Force, Congresswoman Solis is working to make sure that welfare recipients have the training and support they need to move their families from poverty toward long-term self-sufficiency.

Solis offered an amendment to allow full-time vocational education, job training and adult literacy programs such as English as a Second Language (ESL) and General Educational Development (GED) to count as part of their work requirements.

“Welfare recipients need higher education and job training to qualify for high paying jobs that will help lift them out of poverty,” Congresswoman Solis said.



Congresswoman Solis examines the effects that welfare legislation will have on her constituents during the debate on renewing welfare.



Photo by Norma Gattseck
Feminist Majority

Working to Protect the Rights of Women and Girls in Afghanistan

Congresswoman Solis has led the fight to protect the rights of women and girls in Afghanistan by organizing a series of speeches and briefings for Members of Congress to bring attention to the human rights offenses happening overseas.

When the Islamic fundamentalist group the Taliban took control of Afghanistan in 1996, not only were Afghani women suddenly prohibited from working, but young girls were not even allowed to attend school. Any female who went out in public was forced to cover themselves in a veil, and women were habitually beaten or killed for minor offenses of the Taliban decree.

“It is up to us to speak up for a class of women who are too oppressed to speak for themselves,” Congresswoman Solis said. “We must work with the women of Afghanistan to help form a more representative government that recognizes women’s accomplishments and allows them to participate in the process of democracy.”

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Community Resource Fair

Congresswoman **Hilda L. Solis** hosted the first annual Community Resource Fair in April. The event was presented in cooperation with ABC Child Development and the County of Los Angeles. More than 50 agencies served hundreds of families at the fair held at Centro Maravilla in Los Angeles.

The fair featured employment opportunities, affordable quality childcare programs and health care agencies that enroll children in the Healthy Families insurance program. There were also several workshops to help residents learn about citizenship requirements, literacy programs and résumé preparation.

“I am pleased to be able to connect my constituents with services in our community so that they can be better informed about the programs available and so their families can lead a productive and healthy life,” Solis said.

If you would like to know more about some of the outreach agencies that were at the Community Resource Fair, please call one of the Congresswoman’s district offices at (323) 307-9904 or (626) 448-1271.



Congresswoman Solis speaks to Mariana Medrano and Irene Gonzalez from ABC Child Development about the importance of literacy programs at the Community Resource Fair.

CONGRESSWOMAN SOLIS' LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



▲ **Promoting Women's Equality**

Despite all the strides we have made in our society, women are still paid less than men for the same work and are routinely discriminated against in different settings. Solis supports the Paycheck Fairness Act (H.R. 781) to level the playing field for women of all ages so that gender discrimination becomes a thing of the past.

▲ **Protecting Women from Domestic Violence**

No woman should live under a cloud of violence and fear. That is why Congresswoman Solis supports the Violence Against Women Office Act (H.R. 28) to create a permanent Violence Against Women Office within the Department of Justice to address this public health concern.

▲ **Enhancing Women's Health**

Private insurance companies that cover regular prescriptions should also provide coverage of prescription contraceptive drugs and services. Solis supports the Equity in Prescription Insurance and Contraceptive Coverage Act (H.R. 1111) to ensure that women with health insurance no longer pay extra money for birth control medication and services

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