

FROM THE OFFICE OF SENATOR **CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO** ANNUAL REPORT 2019



REPORT CONTENTS

1... A Letter to Nevadans 2... The Year in Review

3... Health Care 4... Affordable Housing

- & Workforce Development
- Protecting Immigrant 17... Contact Information 7... Families

8	Public Lands & the
	Environment
12	Fighting for Nevadans
14	Helping Nevadans
15	Hearing from Nevadans

- 15... Hearing Across the Silver State



A Letter to Nevadans

It is my deep honor to serve as your United States Senator. As a native of the Silver State, I am fiercely committed to improving the lives of Nevada families.

During 2019, I was privileged to work with amazing people from all over the state on the issues that affect us every day: housing, health care, and jobs. I am immensely proud of the innovative, groundbreaking ways that the Nevadans I've met are making our communities healthier, happier, and more resilient. And I've listened carefully to all of you and taken your experiences, voices, and concerns to Washington, D.C.

The pages that follow detail how I've carried your messages to the halls of the U.S. Capitol to craft and support legislation that works for you and your families. I've worked to expand access to health care, including mental health; to foster a 21st-century, innovative economy that provides good-paying jobs to all Nevadans; and to make sure everyone in the Silver State has a safe and secure home. The progress we've made fighting for all Nevadans reassures me that together, we will achieve even more in 2020.

Thank you for trusting me to represent you.

Sincerely,

Catherine Cortez Masto

THE YEAR IN REVIEW with CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO

Every day, Senator Catherine Cortez Masto is fighting for Nevadans. From working in Congress to advance and pass legislation that will help working families to assisting Nevadans with navigating federal agencies and meeting with them in every corner of the Silver State, Senator Cortez Masto and her staff are here to help.



bills, resolutions, and amendments cosponsored. Senator Cortez Masto also introduced **61** pieces of legislation last year. requests for assistance from Nevadans were completed by the office of Senator Cortez Masto.

Legislative Victories

Policy priorities drafted and supported by Senator Cortez Masto that have been passed into law in 2019 include:

- The *Supporting and Treating Officers in Crisis Act* to improve mental health resources for law enforcement.
- The *Servicewomen's Health Transition Training Act* to help women transitioning from active duty learn about available VA services.
- Language from the *Better Military Housing Act* to improve privatized military housing conditions through strengthened protections and a Tenant Bill of Rights.
- The *Colorado River Drought Contingency Plan Authorization Act* to protect Las Vegas' water supply and address the threat of drought.
- Legislation to help Storey and Lincoln Counties promote conservation, improve public lands management and expand economic development.

- The *Supporting Veterans in STEM Careers Act* to help veterans enter STEM careers.
- Repeal of the Cadillac tax, which punished generous employer-provided health insurance plans with heavy taxes.
- The *HUD Manufactured Housing Modernization Act* to empower communities that choose to make manufactured housing part of their affordable housing plans.
- The renewal of the Brand USA program, a public-private partnership that promotes Nevada tourism.
- Appropriations for critical Nevada programs, including \$5 million to address law enforcement mental health and funding for Nevada's military installations.

Health Care

Defending and Improving the ACA

I'm proud of the progress we've made to increase health care affordability and accessibility through the *Affordable Care Act* (ACA). That's why I'm fighting against efforts to repeal the ACA and strip health insurance from millions of Americans. I'm also finding ways to improve the ACA, stop efforts to sabotage the law, expand health care coverage and bring down costs.

First and foremost, I've voted against every attempt to sabotage the *Affordable Care Act*. My Senate Democratic colleagues and I also worked together to force a vote against attempts to repeal pre-existing condition protections for 1.2 million Nevadans. And I am a proud cosponsor of the *No Junk Plans Act*, which would rescind President Trump's Executive Order allowing insurance companies to offer consumers misleading "junk plans" that don't have to cover essential health benefits like prescription drugs, mental health services, emergency room visits and maternity care.

I've introduced the *Dependent Income Exclusion Act* and supported the *Family Coverage Act* and the *Improving*





Health Insurance Affordability Act, bills that make health insurance more affordable for working families with children by expanding access to tax credits that help them afford premiums. And I'm fighting to protect women's equal access to health care services by supporting legislation that will help remove barriers to reproductive health care. I'm also a cosponsor of the *Healthy MOM Act*, which expands health care options for expectant mothers.

The ACA has helped thousands of Nevada families afford insurance coverage that includes mental health treatment, but we need to do more. I introduced the bipartisan *Law Enforcement Suicide Data Collection Act* to track law enforcement suicides and use that data to create more effective prevention and outreach programs. I've also cosponsored legislation to help expand the workforce of mental health providers for students.

Bringing Down the Cost of Prescription Drugs

Outrageous prescription drug prices are hurting Nevadans. That's why I'm fighting to hold drug manufacturers accountable and close loopholes that allow for price gouging by drug makers. I voted to advance the bipartisan *Prescription Drug Pricing Reduction Act* to cut seniors' out-of-pocket drug costs by \$25 billion, lower seniors' Part D premiums and save money for the Medicare and Medicaid programs. To strengthen congressional oversight of drug companies and close a loophole that allows pharmaceutical manufacturers to misclassify drugs and overcharge, I supported the *Right Rebate Act*, which became law in April.

I'm also a proud cosponsor of the *Stopping the Pharmaceutical Industry from Keeping Drugs Expensive (SPIKE) Act* to increase accountability and transparency by requiring drug manufacturers to publicly justify large price increases. I'm supporting the *Empowering Medicare Seniors to Negotiate Drug Prices Act*, which would allow the government to leverage its purchasing power and negotiate drug prices.

Protecting Health Care for Seniors

I'm especially focused on protecting our seniors by shoring up Medicare and Medicaid and ensuring the health care needs of vulnerable seniors are addressed. I've passed the bipartisan BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act, which will establish Centers for Excellence across the country to educate the public and health departments on dementia and improve early detection and interventions. I introduced two bills as part of a bipartisan opioids package, which was signed into law in October 2018 to (1) protect seniors from criminals who misuse the Medicare system to obtain opioids and (2) hold fraudulent treatment programs and recovery centers for substance abuse accountable. And I'm supporting the Reducing Existing Costs Associated with Pharmaceuticals for Seniors (Rx-CAP) Act to protect seniors from high costs in Medicare Part D plans.

3

Affordable Housing & Workforce Development

Addressing Affordable Housing and Housing Discrimination

It's no secret that Nevadans are struggling with skyrocketing housing costs and families are having to work harder to make ends meet. Addressing this is one of my top priorities. When the Administration delayed providing \$3 million for Nevada through the Housing Trust Fund, I led a delegation-wide letter to have the funds restored. My bipartisan *HUD Manufactured Housing Modernization Act of 2019* requires that local governments consider manufactured housing when finalizing their regional affordable housing plans.

I'm committed to fighting to ensure the Silver State has the federal funding it needs to expand access to affordable housing through U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) program, and the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) program. I'm also a cosponsor of legislation to expand and strengthen the Affordable Housing Tax Credit to build more homes. I've introduced the *FHA Foreclosure Prevention Act*, which would ensure lenders follow the law before foreclosing on Americans' homes.

I've introduced the *Home Loan Quality Transparency Act* to identify and prosecute housing discrimination against people of color, women and rural residents. Additionally, my *Fair and Equal Housing Act* would add gender identity and sexual orientation to classes protected from discrimination under the *Fair Housing Act*.

Helping Working Families

I'm fighting to promote job creation so Nevadans can secure good-paying jobs and live with dignity. I'm also working to make sure kids in Nevada are being educated and trained for the 21st century workforce and to protect small businesses, which are engines of job growth and innovation in Nevada. I also led a bipartisan letter urging quick action to prevent financial advisors from receiving bequests from their clients. My letter resulted in rulemaking to protect vulnerable seniors from fraud. I'll keep fighting for robust consumer protections, including ensuring that franchise business owners receive key data before taking out a government-backed loan and ensuring the CFPB protects people from unfair and predatory practices.

Nevada can't unlock its full potential as the Innovation State if our STEM fields don't reflect the rich diversity of our state. To boost the inclusion of underrepresented groups in STEM fields, I'm supporting the *STEM Opportunities Act*. I've introduced the *United States Call Center Worker and Consumer Protection Act* to stop businesses from shipping American jobs overseas.

The average Nevada family spends \$9,852 per year on child care. That's why I've supported bills to make child care accessible and affordable for working families, like the *Working Families Tax Relief Act* and the *Child Care for Working Families Act*. Additionally, I support the *Work Opportunity Tax Credit and Jobs Act*, which encourages employers to hire individuals who face significant barriers to employment.







Protecting Immigrant Families

Smart, Humane Immigration Policies & Strong Borders

I'm doing all I can to fight for a safer, more humane immigration system that strengthens border security and gives law enforcement the resources and technology they need while also ensuring immigrants are treated with the dignity and respect every person deserves. Immigrants add to Nevada's rich diversity and stimulate our economy. It's my role as Senator to stand up for hardworking immigrant communities in Nevada and across the country. My bill, the *End Mass Deportation Act*, would rescind the January 2017 Executive Order by President Trump that prioritized the deportation of undocumented immigrants living in and contributing to U.S. communities.

Long wait times for immigration applications also hurt individuals, families and businesses. Senator Rosen and I wrote to USCIS to address the delays at Nevada field offices and urged the administration to reduce the immigration backlog and ensure immigration judges remain impartial.

I called on DHS to withdraw its proposed "public charge" rule, which would make it harder for hardworking immigrants to obtain citizenship if they've used assistance programs that are legally available to them.

Fighting Against Trump's Harmful Policies

It seems as if every day the Administration announces new, inhumane policies that further strain our already broken immigration system. I've seen the effects of these cruel policies firsthand on my border visits, which is why I support smart, humane policies that promote strong borders.

My Alternatives to Detention (ATD) Act would prohibit the detention of vulnerable people unless they're a danger to themselves or others, requiring instead that they be placed in humane, cost-effective ATD programs. Those in immigration custody must be treated with dignity. I've cosponsored legislation to establish standards for the treatment of kids in Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) custody, require CBP personnel who interact with kids to undergo training and demand that child welfare professionals represent kids' best interests. I've also called on CBP and ICE to end their detention of pregnant immigrants and ban the shackling of pregnant women.

Although the Trump Administration has reversed its cruel policy of family separation on paper, nothing prevents this or a future President from reinstating it. I'm a cosponsor of the *Keep Families Together Act*, a bill that would outlaw it in the future. I'm also working to address the root causes of migration along our southern border through legislation to outline a coordinated, regional response to the violence and corruption in Central America that has forced families to seek asylum in the U.S.

Standing with DACA and TPS Holders

Dreamers and Temporary Protected Status (TPS) recipients are vital parts of our communities. I'm a proud cosponsor of the bipartisan *American Dream and Promise Act*, which would finally put Dreamers on a pathway to citizenship and give them the certainty to build lives and careers in the only country they've ever known. I introduced the *SECURE Act*, a bill which would allow eligible TPS recipients to apply for lawful permanent resident status. I've called on DHS to expedite DACA renewal applications and ensure that DACA recipients and others get timely work authorizations.

Need help navigating the U.S. immigration system?

If you or a loved one has questions about or needs assistance navigating the U.S. immigration system, my Nevada offices are here to help:

> **Southern Nevada:** (702) 388-5020 **Northern Nevada:** (775) 686-5750

Immigrants contribute so much to the Silver State, our local communities and our economy. More importantly, they are our friends, neighbors and proud Nevadans. That's why I'm committed to protecting Nevada's immigrant communities and ensuring they're armed with the knowledge they need to advocate for themselves and their families. I urge Nevadans to visit my website and dowload my

IMMIGRANT RESOURCE GUIDE

for more information on our nation's immigration system, advice about knowing your rights and instructions on how to access immigration, medical and crisis services in Nevada.

You can find my Immigrant Resource Guide, along with other guides for Nevadans on topics including Small Business, Veterans and College, on my website:

CortezMasto.Senate.Gov/Resource-Guides



Public Lands & the Environment

Protecting Nevada's Land and Water

I'm committed to fighting to protect Nevada's natural resources and pristine public spaces for future generations. I was proud to work with local stakeholders in Southern Nevada to pass federal legislation-the Colorado River Drought Contingency Plan Act-to ensure Nevadans have access to safe, clean drinking water for the next 50 years. And I continue to fight against Yucca Mountain and any proposals to store spent nuclear fuel and high-level nuclear waste in our state without our consent. When the Department of Energy secretly shipped weapons-grade plutonium to Nevada, I told the Secretary of Energy I was going to hold up his agency's nominees until he committed to remove it. I secured an agreement from the Department of Energy for its removal starting in 2021, six years earlier than the Department proposed, and was assured that no more plutonium would come from the South Carolina facility to Nevada.

Fighting Climate Change

In Nevada, we're seeing drier summers and earlier winters contributing to more wildfires and worse flooding in our communities. Climate change is real, and as a member of the Senate Democrats' Special Committee on the Climate Crisis, I'm working to find comprehensive solutions that prioritize renewable energy and environmental stewardship. I'm also ensuring that we're prioritizing the health and wellbeing of Native, AAPI, Latino and African American communities, who are often hit harder by climate change, as we propose legislation to address the climate crisis throughout the country.

I've cosponsored the *Climate Change Health Protection and Promotion Act* to assist health professionals in responding to the public health effects of climate change. I've proposed a range of legislation to provide companies with tax credits for the use and production of green energy and electric vehicles. And I've also introduced bills like the *GEO Act* that harness Nevada's vast renewable energy resources.

With Senate passage of the wildfire funding fix in legislation funding government agencies, I've ensured that firefighters and state, local and federal agencies have the funds they need to fight, prevent and recover from wild and rangeland fires. I also organized the first-ever Wildfire Summit in Nevada to increase cooperation among state, local and federal agencies.

Our Public Lands Are for Future Generations to Enjoy

Nevada has a booming outdoor recreation economy that brings millions of dollars in revenue to the Silver State each year and supports thousands of jobs. I've introduced the *Ruby Mountains Protection Act* to prohibit oil and gas leasing in Nevada's pristine Ruby Mountains. I fought for money for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which helps maintain our public lands for future generations. I'm now working on legislation that would make that funding permanent. In addition, I've introduced numerous public lands bills to incentivize economic growth for Nevada's communities while also prioritizing the protection of wilderness and the efficient management of federal public lands.







Fighting for Nevadans

Standing Up for Trafficking Victims

Since my time as Nevada Attorney General, I've worked to end this modern form of human slavery, hold perpetrators accountable and support survivors. I helped pass the bipartisan *Abolish Human Trafficking Act of 2017* and the *Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2017*, both of which support survivors of human trafficking and prosecute traffickers. I also helped pass the *Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act* to crack down on websites that knowingly facilitate sex trafficking. I'm working to provide training to law enforcement to identify the signs of trafficking. My *Interdiction for the Protection of Child Victims of Exploitation and Human Trafficking Act* would bring an innovative program to communities and law enforcement agencies across the country to help them identify trafficking victims.

Supporting Native American Communities

Nevada is home to 19 federally recognized tribes, and I understand the importance of protecting the sovereignty of tribal governments and promoting the wellbeing of indigenous people. I recently passed a bipartisan amendment in the Senate to study food insecurity among Native Americans by directing the federal government to examine ways to improve access to food distribution programs for elderly and disabled tribal members.

I've also cosponsored the *Tribal Access to Homeless Assistance Act* to make it easier for tribes to access funding to combat homelessness on tribal lands. I'm fighting to pass the *Native American Voting Rights Act*, which defends Native Americans' civil rights by protecting their right to vote.

America is experiencing an epidemic of missing, murdered and trafficked Native women. To address the crisis, I've introduced the bipartisan *Savanna's Act* to improve the federal government's response, and the *Not Invisible Act* to strengthen coordination among the federal government, law enforcement and tribal communities. I've also cosponsored the *Native Youth and Tribal Officer Protection Act*, which restores tribal jurisdiction over crimes against children and strengthens existing laws to ensure that tribes can prosecute domestic violence.

Honoring Our Service Members and Veterans

Our service members and veterans deserve resources, comprehensive care and support that honors their sacrifices for this country. I helped pass into law my *Servicewomen's Health Transition Training Act* to help servicewomen obtain access to gender-specific VA services and benefits early on to assist with a successful transition to civilian life and important provisions of my *Better Military Housing* Act, including a tenant's bill of rights for military families and other mechanisms for increased transparency. These were included in a bipartisan bill that also funded our state's military training infrastructure and important clinical services and facility improvements at Reno's VA Medical Center and finally repealed the "Military Widow's Tax." I've introduced the *Service Act* to remove time limits on combat veterans' eligibility for VA mental health treatment, the *Accelerating Veterans Recovery Outdoors Act* and the *Rural Servicemembers Support Act*, which would require a study of whether services provided at remote locations meet the needs of the stationed service members. I'm also the cosponsor of a bipartisan bill to bolster VA's mental health workforce and increase rural or hard-to-reach veterans' access to VA care.

Protecting Nevadans' Civil Rights

I'll never stop fighting to advance legislation that ensures equality and justice for all Americans. I helped pass the *First Step Act*, which will reform our sentencing laws, rehabilitate individuals convicted of nonviolent offenses and provide substance abuse treatment for individuals who are incarcerated. I'm a cosponsor of the *Equality Act* to explicitly ban discrimination on the basis of sex, gender identity and sexual orientation, and I'm fighting to reauthorize the *Violence Against Women Act* to protect Nevadans from domestic violence and stalking.

I've cosponsored the *Justice for Victims of Lynching Act of* 2018 to finally designate lynching as an illegal hate crime, an important step towards justice for those murdered in the name of hate and racism. I've cosponsored legislation to require federal agencies to regularly assess the threat of white supremacist terrorism and provide resources for local law enforcement to respond to extremism. I'm committed to combating hate and prejudice of all kinds, which is why I'm also a cosponsor of the *Anti-Semitism Awareness Act* and why I fought against Trump's discriminatory Muslim travel ban.

Fighting for Commonsense Measures to Reduce Gun Violence and Save Lives

We owe it to those affected by gun violence – in my hometown of Las Vegas and across the country – to pass commonsense gun safety measures. In 2018 I helped pass the bipartisan *Fix NICS Act*, which bolsters our federal background check system to prevent violent felons and domestic abusers from purchasing a gun.

I'm also a cosponsor of the *Background Check Expansion Act*, which would close the loophole that allows the private purchase or transfer of guns without a background check. I've cosponsored legislation to ban the sale and manufacture of bump stocks – the device the Las Vegas shooter used to kill and injure hundreds of people within the span of minutes. And I've cosponsored bills to ban high capacity magazines, implement extreme risk protection laws to temporarily remove guns from those who endanger themselves or others and fund gun violence prevention research.



Helping Nevadans

My staff and I work every day to assist Nevadans who need help navigating federal agencies and government programs. In 2019, my office completed 1,868 requests for assistance. Here are just a few Nevadans who've been helped by my office.



John's TRICARE Is Reinstated

John —a veteran who served his nation—was facing a heartbreaking situation when his TRICARE coverage lapsed and he was left on the hook for \$140,000 in medical bills. My office and I helped John reinstate his coverage and get his medical bills paid.



Robin Receives Her Social Security Benefit When Robin discovered she was owed \$4,000 in back pay on her Social Security benefit, I ensured that she received her full balance. She was able to collect the payment less than a month after she wrote in requesting help.

Dawn Secures Wells Fargo Refund

When Wells Fargo refused to refund Dawn her payment on a fraudulently endorsed check, my office and I stepped in to hold the bank accountable. Dawn received the full sum of her payment back from Wells Fargo.

Juan Becomes a U.S. Citizen

Juan had everything he needed to apply for citizenship, except a tax transcript from 2013. After he reached out to the IRS to no avail, my office worked with the local Taxpayer Advocate's office to find his tax transcript. Juan is now a proud U.S. citizen.



Yerington Gets Stamps for Christmas Season

When the Yerington Post Office ran out of stamps right in the middle of the holiday season, my office and I secured a special transfer of stamps from Carson City. The stamps were immediately made available for Nevadans looking to ship their Christmas cards and packages.

James Gets Toll Changes Dismissed

James was receiving erroneous toll charges from other states due to his unique Nevada Elvis license plates. I ensured all the charges were dismissed, helping James safeguard his credit score and his finances.

If you need help navigating a federal agency or have questions about how my office can help you, visit: **cortezmasto.senate.gov**

Hearing from Nevadans Across the Silver State

Check out the map below to see highlights from some of my travels around Nevada over the past few years.



The Las Vegas Valley...

- Hosted a "Know Your Rights" event in Las Vegas to hear Nevadans' concerns and share immigration resources.
- Hosted a roundtable with local conservationists and spoke at RTCSNV's Clean Energy Summit about how Nevada is leading the way in sustainability and green technology.
- Visited high school students at the Coral Academy to unveil my College and Beyond Guide, which includes resources for Nevadans pursuing higher education.
- Celebrated Veterans Day at Heritage Springs Assisted Living and Memory Care and at the Las Vegas Honor Ride.



Reno-Sparks and Carson City...

- Toured RTC's Virginia Street bus extension project and applauded the announcement of a \$40.4 million grant from the Department of Transportation to complete the project.
- Spoke at Northern Nevada's Academy Information Day, where students can learn about military service academy opportunities.
- Spoke with both the Carson City and Sparks Chambers of Commerce to discuss how to best invest in Nevada's businesses.
- Convened the Nevada Broadband Workshop to bring together federal, state and local officials to discuss innovative ways to improve broadband connectivity and infrastructure across the state.



... And Many More Communities Across Nevada!

- Met with Caliente government officials and toured the Caliente Youth Center, which is helping set at-risk youth on a path for success.
- Toured the KGHM mine in White Pine County.
- Solution Met with the Duckwater Tribe and local officials in Ely.
- Visited Austin's touching Veterans Memorial.
- Convened a meeting with stakeholders to discuss the challenges and opportunities related to the Fallon Naval Air Range Expansion.
- Visited both the Historic Goldfield Hotel and the Eureka Opera House.
- Visited a new electric vehicle charging station in Panaca.
- Spoke at the 23rd Annual Lake Tahoe Summit.
- Met with Lovelock Paiute Tribe leadership.
- Visited Lamoille Canyon to inspect the damage caused by the 2018 Range 2 fire and advocate for continued funding to help rebuild and rehabilitate the area.

- Hosted an LGBTQ roundtable to speak with advocates in the Las Vegas community.
- ♀ Hosted a workshop with the Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco to bring more housing and workforce investments to Nevada.
- Celebrated Black History Month at Las Vegas' annual Springs Preserve Festival.
- P Took part in a Interdiction for the Protection of Children (IPC) Program training to help law enforcement identify and rescue child trafficking victims.
- Spoke at the 63rd Annual AFL-CIO Constitutional Convention and advocated for workers' rights and unions' bargaining powers.



- Toured the Mallory Behavioral Health Crisis Center and spoke about the importance of ensuring funding for community-based mental health initiatives.
- Celebrated the opening of a 200-unit affordable housing development in Dayton.
- Toured the Tahoe Reno Industrial Center to meet with business owners, employees and entrepreneurs and tout Nevada's status as the Innovation State.
- Hosted the first ever wildfire summit to address the growing threat of wildfires by bringing Nevadans together to discuss prevention, suppression and restoration.



- Visited a memorial in Carlin that honors the labor and legacy of Chinese immigrants who worked to build the transcontinental railroad.
- Spoke with leaders of the Battle Mountain Band of the Te-Moak Tribe.
- Met with local officials in Pershing County to discuss community development and other issues facing rural Nevadans.
- Met with the Walker Lake Working Group in Hawthorne to discuss federal support for local conservation efforts.
- ♀ Toured the Crescent Dunes Solar Energy Project in Tonopah.
- Observed a demonstration in Winnemucca of new broadband balloon technology from Loon, a company hoping to find creative solutions to bring broadband to rural communities.





SERVING THE SILVER STATE **OFFICE LOCATIONS**

333 Las Vegas Boulevard South Suite 8016 Las Vegas, NV 89101 P: (702) 388-5020 F: (702) 388-5030

516 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 P: (202) 224-3542

400 South Virginia Street Suite 902 Reno, NV 89501 P: (775) 686-5750 F: (775) 686-5757

Serving Rural Nevada P: (775) 225-1457

