



FROM THE OFFICE OF SENATOR  
**CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO**  
ANNUAL REPORT | 2020



R E P O R T   C O N T E N T S

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1... A Letter to Nevadans                                     | 8... Building a Resilient Future                    |
| 2... The Year in Review                                       | 10... A Diverse Nevada Is a Strong Nevada           |
| 3... Protecting Nevadans' Health                              | 11... Helping Nevadans                              |
| 4... Supporting Nevadans Impacted by the Coronavirus Pandemic | 12... Hearing from Nevadans Across the Silver State |
| 7... Rebuilding Our Economy                                   | 13... Contact Information                           |



## A Letter to Nevadans

For most Nevadans, 2020 has been an unbelievably challenging year. In the midst of a once-in-a-lifetime pandemic, people in the Silver State have quarantined, socially distanced, and masked up to save lives and slow the spread of the virus.

I'm grateful for the everyday heroism of so many in Nevada, from frontline workers to educators, seniors to small business owners. For my part, I've spent the year working at the federal level to get our state the support needed to keep people healthy, assist Nevada businesses and workers, and continue safely reopening our economy.

In the pages that follow, you'll see how I've been working this year to protect Nevadans' health and health care, respond to the pandemic, strengthen our economy with good-paying jobs, and make sure that everyone in Nevada has the resources they need to thrive, now and into the future. I'll continue to work in the Senate to pave the way for recovery and renewal for the Silver State.

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.



**\$2,063,780,510**

in grant funding secured for Nevada in 2020, and over \$19 billion in funding for the state appropriated in coronavirus relief legislation.



**141,630**

phone calls and correspondence exchanged with Nevadans.



**185**

bills, resolutions and amendments cosponsored, and **58** pieces of legislation introduced in 2020.



**2,391**

requests for assistance from Nevadans completed by the office of Senator Cortez Masto.

## Legislative Victories

Thirteen pieces of legislation drafted by Senator Cortez Masto were signed into law as standalone bills or were negotiated into larger packages in 2020, including:

- The passage of five coronavirus relief packages that brought billions of dollars to Nevada for health care providers, small businesses, and struggling families.
- **Savanna's Act** and the **Not Invisible Act** to help curb the epidemic of missing, murdered, and trafficked Indigenous women and girls.
- Legislation to extend the Investment Tax Credit and the residential renewable energy tax credit for solar for two additional years.
- The **Accelerating Veterans' Recovery Outdoors Act** expand access and use of public lands for veterans for outdoor wellness and rehabilitation treatments.
- The **Law Enforcement Suicide Data Collection Act** to track law enforcement suicides and use the anonymous data collected to improve mental health interventions.
- The **FinCEN Improvement Act** to expand the capacity of the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network and the **FIND Trafficking Act** to analyze how virtual currencies and online marketplaces facilitate trafficking.
- The **Department of Defense Healthcare Billing Report Act** to assess billing practices of DoD to ensure service members, veterans, and their families receive high-quality health care that prioritizes fairness and accessibility.
- Legislation to study the impact of the Chinese government's influence in setting global standards for emerging technologies.
- The **IOGAN Act** to combat the threat of deepfakes, online videos that are manipulated to realistically mimic a person's identity.
- The **Child Nutrition Relief Act** to ensure schools have the flexibility to deliver free and reduced-cost meal services to students, even when operating remotely.
- The **ACCESS BROADBAND Act** to help Nevadans access fast, high-quality internet.
- Federal funding for critical programs, including \$62 million for rural broadband, \$50 million for low-emission buses, \$25 million to fight invasive species in alpine lakes, \$1.3 billion for the HOME Investment Partnership Program, and \$3.5 billion for Community Development Block Grants.

# Protecting Nevadans' Health

## Strengthening the Affordable Care Act, Medicaid and Medicare

Since the Affordable Care Act was enacted, over 400,000 Nevadans have gained coverage, including over 158,000 children. We've strengthened the Medicaid program that over 640,000 Nevadans rely on and bolstered Medicare. Fighting to protect these vital programs has been one of my top priorities in Congress. I've opposed all [attempts to strike down](#) the ACA and rip coverage away from millions of Americans, fought against the Trump Administration's dangerous proposals to [disrupt](#) state Medicaid financing and [institute](#) Medicaid block grant funding, and called for additional support for the Medicare Advantage Program that serves more than a third of Nevada's seniors. I also [introduced](#) the *Dependent Income Exclusion Act* to make health insurance more affordable for families with children who have part-time jobs or are enrolled in job training programs, and I drafted legislation to [support](#) rural health care providers. I was proud to support legislation passed this Congress to end surprise medical billing.

## Prioritizing Nevadans' Mental Health

The mental health of Nevadans is just as important as their physical health. That's why I've introduced several bills aimed at improving mental health services in the Silver State, including [legislation](#) to increase Medicaid funding for mental health clinics and to [increase the capacity](#) of online and virtual behavioral health support groups. I've cosponsored a bill to [expand](#) the mental health workforce in low-income and rural schools. I've worked to destigmatize mental health challenges and improve access to behavioral health resources for communities of color through my resolution to designate July [as BIPOC Mental Health Awareness Month](#) and my *Mental Health Equity Act*. This bill would provide funding for community health centers and other clinics that serve young people from socially and economically disadvantaged communities. Throughout the year, I also worked with law enforcement to design policies that help them serve the public justly and stay mentally healthy. My *Law Enforcement Suicide Data Collection Act*, which was signed into law, will help us better understand and combat the epidemic of law enforcement suicides, and my *Confidentiality Opportunities for Peer Support (COPS) Counseling Act* would encourage the adoption of law enforcement peer counseling programs.

## Combating Coronavirus

Protecting Nevadans' health has been especially important during the coronavirus pandemic. Since the first cases appeared in Nevada, I've been advocating for increased testing, personal protective equipment (PPE), and funding to ensure our health care providers can stay safe while they slow the spread of COVID-19 and care for Nevadans. I supported four supplemental coronavirus [funding packages](#), including the *CARES Act*. These bills included \$175 billion for the frontline health workers serving ill and at-risk populations, \$69 billion for vaccine distribution, testing, tracing, and health care provider support, and \$150 billion in funding for local, state, and tribal governments—with \$1.25 billion for Nevada. I also [requested](#) over \$77.3 billion for community health centers on the front lines of this pandemic, and I have repeatedly fought for additional funding to protect the health of [communities of color](#), [tribal nations](#), [first responders](#), [kids and families in the child welfare system](#), and those experiencing [behavioral health](#) challenges. As we move toward recovery, I'll continue to advocate for additional funds to safely and efficiently distribute the coronavirus vaccine.

Coronavirus has disproportionately affected Nevada's seniors and communities of color, and we must continue to protect our most vulnerable populations. I helped introduce the *Coronavirus Immigrant Families Protection Act* to ensure that Nevada's immigrant communities have access to COVID-19 testing, public health information, and relief benefits regardless of immigration status or [limited English proficiency](#). I am also proud to support legislation to [increase](#) funding for nursing home inspectors and home health care workers, [address critical](#) PPE shortfalls in long-term care facilities, and [develop](#) an action plan to address health disparities among racial and ethnic groups across the country.

Congress also must ensure that Nevadans who have been laid off or furloughed due to the coronavirus pandemic have access to health coverage, whether it be through Nevada Health Link, Nevada Medicaid, or their employer. That's why I introduced the *Worker Health Care Coverage Protection Act* to protect millions of unemployed or furloughed workers from losing their health insurance by enabling them to access subsidized COBRA coverage. I've also joined efforts to [bolster](#) the Medicaid safety net and [invest](#) in outreach and enrollment assistance. As we look to a new year, I'll continue to provide Nevadans with the support they need to stay healthy, combat this disease, and get back to a new normal.

# Supporting Nevadans Impacted by the Coronavirus Pandemic

## Supporting Nevada State and Local Governments Fighting the Coronavirus Pandemic

While we fight to protect Nevadans' health during this pandemic, we must also provide financial support and resources to those impacted by financial uncertainty, furloughs, and layoffs. I've called for additional funding to support Nevada's cities and counties, which are working hard to keep their residents safe while dealing with devastating revenue losses and budget shortfalls. I've cosponsored the [Coronavirus Community Relief Act](#) to ensure Nevada's small and rural communities receive direct funding needed to fight the COVID-19 pandemic and to offer additional flexibility in how they use those funds. In addition, I [called on](#) Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin to allow more flexibility in how state, local, and tribal governments distribute federal coronavirus funds.

## Fighting for Resources for Unemployed and Furloughed Nevadans

Coronavirus has left thousands of Nevadans without work, so I made sure that [Social Security recipients](#), [veterans](#), and those on SSI were able to automatically receive their stimulus checks, and I helped ensure mixed-status families could qualify for Economic Impact Payments. I fought to ensure that [families who don't have broadband](#), [people experiencing homelessness](#), and survivors of domestic violence could also receive their Economic Impact Payments in a safe, timely manner. In addition, I called for [clarification](#) on how Nevada's gig workers and seasonal employees could best receive assistance from Unemployment Insurance (UI), Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), and the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), and I [pushed for readjustments](#) to the PPP's regulations so that Nevadans who work in seasonal industries can get support from their small business employers. I also supported [legislation](#) to allow independent contractors to access PUA. In order to hasten unemployment payments for Nevadans, I've repeatedly sent [letters](#) urging the Department of Labor (DOL) to speed up state UI systems, and I've introduced [two bills](#) to incentivize states to upgrade outdated programs.

## Securing Safe, Affordable Housing Options for Nevada Families

Having safe, reliable housing is another critical part of responding to this health crisis, which is why I worked to ensure the Nevada Affordable Housing Assistance Corporation retained \$18 million to help more than 1,000 families pay their mortgages and avoid foreclosure and provide another 400 families with down payment assistance. I supported *CARES Act* funding to help people who lost their jobs or became ill from the coronavirus pay rent. I also supported [legislation](#) to help Nevadans avoid homelessness and called for the creation of a [Housing Assistance Fund](#) to provide \$75 billion to help families struggling to pay their mortgages. I co-introduced the [Emergency Rental Assistance and Rental Market Stabilization Act of 2020](#) to establish a new program to help families and individuals pay their rent and remain housed during and after the coronavirus crisis. This December, I introduced two bills to increase funding for fair housing programs that combat housing discrimination and to reauthorize the HOME Investment Partnership Program. In addition, I've [continually pushed](#) HUD and the banking regulators to sanction and prevent discrimination and predatory lending. And I'm happy to say that my bill, the *Manufactured Housing Modernization Act*, which requires regional housing plans to consider the needs of people living in manufactured housing, was signed into law this year.

## Supporting Nevada's Children, Schools and Teachers

I've also prioritized our education system and our hardworking teachers. I [called for](#) at least \$175 billion for the Elementary and Secondary Education Relief Fund. I've continued my efforts to improve broadband access for students, families, and businesses by introducing or co-leading the bipartisan [ACCESS BROADBAND Act](#), the [Connected Rural Schools Act](#), and the [Accessible, Affordable Internet for All Act](#). In addition, I introduced the [Child Nutrition Relief Act](#), which was signed into law and will extend policies that offer schools flexibility in delivering student meals during the pandemic. To help college-aged students cope with their debt burdens, I introduced the [Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act](#) to allow borrowers to refinance federal loans at lower rates. I also supported bills to fund the operation costs associated with [child care](#) facilities and [child welfare](#) programs during the coronavirus pandemic.





# Rebuilding Our Economy

## Protecting and Strengthening Small Businesses

During this year of crisis, I've fought for the small businesses that help drive Nevada's economy, helping pass [legislation](#) to expand EIDL loans to more businesses affected by the pandemic and extend the employee retention tax credit. I helped ensure that Nevada's [small gaming businesses](#), [rural electric cooperatives](#), and 501(c)6 organizations were included in the Paycheck Protection Program and that [small agricultural businesses](#) qualified for the SBA's disaster loan program. I believe that all small businesses should have equal access to support during the pandemic, which is why I successfully pushed the Trump Administration to allow [gaming companies](#) to [receive PPP funds](#), urged the SBA to make sure minority-owned businesses were not shut out of PPP funding, and cosponsored the bipartisan [RESTART Act](#) to support the hardest-hit small- and mid-sized businesses. In addition, I've worked to secure support for the Silver State's [cattle](#), dairy, and [agricultural](#) operations. I also joined Senator Jacky Rosen in introducing the [HEROES Small Business Lifeline Act](#), a comprehensive package that would help small and minority-owned businesses all across the state weather the economic storm caused by COVID-19. To further support small businesses, I've repeatedly called on the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to sanction companies that participate in unfair and deceptive practices and compensate harmed consumers. In addition, I have successfully urged the Federal Trade Commission to consider improvements to the Franchise Rule. My bill, the *SBA Franchise Loan Transparency Act*, would go even further by ensuring that franchise owners receive more data on the performance of franchises before they receive an SBA-guaranteed loan.

It is also a priority of mine to strengthen Nevada's rural communities and the small businesses that help them thrive. I introduced the *More Opportunities for Rural Economies (MORE) Grants Package* to provide more constructive grant competitions for rural communities. I've also supported funding from federal agencies like the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which this year provided \$151 million to rural communities, supporting over 15 small businesses and creating almost 50 new jobs across rural Nevada.

## Promoting the Safe Recovery of Nevada's World-Class Travel and Tourism Industry

It's no secret that Nevada's world-class travel, tourism, and hospitality industry has been significantly impacted by COVID-19. Nevadans are hurting. That is why I have advocated for the federal funding our state needs to recover and continue to safely and responsibly re-open. I've also led the [bipartisan Hospitality and Commerce Job Recovery Act](#) to provide comprehensive relief and recovery measures for the convention, trade show, entertainment, travel, and hospitality industries and their workers. These industries are economic engines across the Silver State, and this legislation would expand the employee retention tax credit, create new recovery incentives for hospitality and trade shows, and provide a small tax credit for families to jumpstart travel when safe. In addition, I've introduced the bipartisan [Sustaining Tourism Enterprises During the COVID-19 Pandemic \(STEP\) Act](#), which would modify existing grant programs to provide direct support to the hard-hit tourism and travel industries and help increase public confidence as these industries look to reopen safely. I've also cosponsored a [bill](#) to provide direct financial support to struggling event venues and the [RESTAURANTS Act](#) to establish a temporary Restaurant Revitalization Fund. As hotels, restaurants, and event venues across the state begin to welcome more visitors, the public and employees alike need information, funding, and support so that travel and events are safe.

## The Backbone of the Silver State's Economy: Our Small Businesses



*Throughout the year, I've spoken to so many small businesses across Nevada such as Peri and Sons Farm, Uplift Solar and Tu Biomics. This summer, I also hosted a workshop with the Nevada Small Business Development Center (SBDC), Grow with Google, and the Connected Commerce Council and led a Congressional Startup Day Webinar to help small businesses better understand the tools at their disposal to grow their startups, connect with customers, and manage their businesses during the coronavirus pandemic. It is an honor to advocate for small businesses in Congress, and I'll continue to work to ensure they can weather this pandemic.*

# Building a Resilient Future

## Expanding Our Outdoor Economy and Advocating for Conservation Priorities

Throughout the pandemic, Nevada's outdoor spaces have bolstered our economy and provided an escape for families looking to recreate safely. As we recover, I want to strengthen Nevada's outdoor and recreation economy by protecting our public lands and our environment. Along with the entire Nevada delegation, I continue to oppose any attempt to store nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain. I'm also fighting for the [resources](#) to protect Nevada from the wildfires that devastate our land and our economy. I've cosponsored the [Wildfire Defense Act](#) to help communities implement science-based methods for mitigating wildfire damage and defending life and property. Part of the way to combat wildfires is to slow the climate change that exacerbates them, and I've supported Nevada's clean energy economy by introducing and expanding [tax credits](#) to support solar, geothermal, and other renewable energy production and use. In addition, I cosponsored and helped secure the passage of the bipartisan [Great American Outdoors Act](#), which will permanently and fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and allow deferred maintenance projects to move forward on public lands in Nevada and throughout the country. I introduced bills to prohibit oil and gas leasing on public lands with [low or no potential](#) for development and to ban drilling in the [Ruby Mountains](#), ensuring Nevadans can continue to enjoy our rugged landscapes for hunting, hiking, and camping. I've also introduced lands bills for Douglas, Lander, and Pershing counties to support conservation, responsible land management, and economic growth opportunities for Nevada's rural communities. In addition, I've worked with stakeholders, including tribal communities, conservationists, sportsmen, private landowners, and the United States military, in both Southern and Northern Nevada to secure status quo renewals instead of the U.S. Navy and U.S. Air Force's projected expansions to the [Nevada Test and Training Range](#) and the [Naval Air Station Fallon](#).

## Innovation State and Worker Training

As part of my *Innovation State Initiative*, I've introduced and helped secure passage of legislation to foster technological solutions, provide good-paying jobs, promote careers in STEM fields, and improve clean transportation options. These 21<sup>st</sup>-century jobs will help Nevada recover from the economic impacts of the coronavirus pandemic and diversify our economy.

Smart transportation is one pathway to the future, and it is key to combating the climate crisis. That is why I introduced the [Smart Transportation Advancement and Transition \(STAT\) Act](#) to promote solutions like state-of-the-art traffic control centers and on-demand public transportation for hospital and university campuses. I've also personally advocated for multiple grants to help support Nevada's transportation economy, including over \$73 million to fund highway improvements in Las Vegas and near Pyramid Lake. As Nevada continues to be a leader in drone technology, I [remain committed](#) to ensuring our workforce has the necessary skills to drive growth in this industry. As we move forward, we need a workforce that comes from different backgrounds and experiences and finds creative, innovative solutions to issues Nevada is facing. Legislation like my [WORKER Act](#) would promote education and training for workers within in-demand industries. I've also cosponsored [legislation](#) that creates a job training and higher education fund for the pandemic's frontline workers, who have continually shown up for others this year.



## More Money in the Pockets of Hardworking Nevadans

For 40 years, working Americans have experienced limited wage growth. Now, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many working families who were already struggling have been confronted with additional economic challenges. Faced with stagnant wages, loss of income, and rising health care costs, Nevadans and working-class Americans are struggling to stay afloat. These families need our support, which is why I am proud to [introduce the RAISE Working Families Act](#) to help Nevada families put more money in their pockets by creating a new \$500 refundable tax credit for qualified individuals and \$1,000 refundable tax credit for qualified joint filers to boost earnings and provide critical relief to working families. As we continue to recover from the pandemic, I remain committed in working to ensure that Nevadans have the support they need.



# A Diverse Nevada Is a Strong Nevada

## Working Toward a Fairer and More Just America

Nevada's diversity is one of our state's strengths. That's why listening to the voices of communities across the state is so crucial. This year, I met with and listened to the families of those impacted by police violence. Their stories and voices informed my support of legislation like the [Police Training and Independent Review Act](#). This bill would provide grants to states that require fair and impartial police training and independent investigation and prosecution of police use of deadly force. I've also introduced the [Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets \(CAHOOTS\) Act](#), which would create response teams that can be dispatched to people in crisis instead of immediately involving law enforcement. Protecting Nevada's Native communities has also been a priority of mine. We made real progress in seeking justice for the families of missing, murdered, and trafficked Native women and curbing violence against them when two bills I led, [Savanna's Act](#) and the [Not Invisible Act](#), were [signed into law](#) this year. As we look toward increasing inclusion across the country, my [Diversity in Corporate Leadership Act](#) would require public companies to disclose board member demographics. I've also introduced the [Women's Economic Empowerment in Trade Act](#) and supported the [Federal Jobs Act](#) to protect and strengthen workers' and women's rights and promote inclusion in the federal workforce.

## Fighting for Immigrants and Their Families

As we recover from the impacts of the pandemic, one of my priorities has been addressing the needs of Nevada's immigrant communities. In March, I called for the extension of work authorizations for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), Temporary Protected Status (TPS) recipients and other immigrants impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. I also [requested](#) that U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) continue to process visa applications for doctors, and I urged the agency to allow eligible immigrants to complete the naturalization process. For immigrants in our nation's detention centers, federal support and oversight is critical. This year, I [visited](#) the Nevada Southern Detention Center after [calling](#) for an investigation of its conditions, and I [urged](#) Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to increase transparency. I also introduced legislation to make meaningful changes to our broken immigration system and help

hundreds of thousands of undocumented and mixed-status families that have lived in the U.S. for decades without a clear path to legal permanent residency. Supporting Nevada's immigrant community also means creating a pathway to citizenship for DACA recipients and opening our doors to those fleeing unsafe conditions. I was glad that the Supreme Court ruled against the Trump Administration's decision to end the DACA program, and I [fought](#) for an extension of TPS for communities that have been thrown into uncertainty by the actions of the Trump administration. In the year ahead, I'll continue to fight for the health and well-being of Nevada's immigrant communities.

*"I've been inspired by the millions of Americans who've shown up in cities and towns across the country to demand justice and change. I agree wholeheartedly with their calls for action, for meaningful reform and for structural changes to address the vast racial inequities that exist in our justice system, in policing and across all levels of government and society." - Senator Cortez Masto, "How We Seek Justice Today and Healing Tomorrow," Las Vegas Sun, June 2020*

## Supporting Military Families and Veterans Across Nevada

Nevada's veterans have given so much to this nation, and we must ensure that they have the resources they need to thrive and heal. Throughout the pandemic, I've championed VA employees and veterans by calling for VA frontline workers to receive hazard pay and passing a bill out of the Senate that would allow student veterans to continue receiving full benefits as universities moved to online learning. I also led the Nevada Delegation by calling for continued funding for the Nevada National Guard during the coronavirus pandemic. In the Senate, I've introduced the [Know Your Vets Act](#), the [Puppies Assisting Wounded Service Members \(PAWS\) Act](#), and the [Accelerating Veterans Recovery Outdoors Act](#)—which was passed into law in November—to support our veterans as they re-adjust to civilian life by providing them with housing, health care, and mental health services, treatments and therapies. To improve mental health resources for service members, I introduced the [Examining Mental Health Services for the National Guard and Reserves Act](#). I also introduced the [Department of Defense Healthcare Billing Report Act](#), which passed into law in the FY2021 NDAA. In 2020, I was also proud to help [secure](#) an agreement with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs that would provide rural veterans with a much-needed burial option in Elko, Nevada.

# Helping Nevadans

My staff and I work every day to assist Nevadans who need help navigating federal agencies and government programs. In 2020, my office completed 2,391 requests for assistance.

Here are just a few Nevadans who've been helped by my office.



## Laurel's Social Security Payments Increased

When Laurel's Social Security benefits were wrongfully reduced by the Social Security Administration (SSA), my office and I stepped in to correct the miscalculation. After my intervention, the SSA fixed their error. Laurel's benefits were increased above their original level, and she received back pay.

## Reno Ice Completes Construction on Olympic-Sized Ice Rink

When Reno Ice ran into problems securing temporary work visas for three German engineers needed to construct an Olympic-sized ice skating rink, the company reached out to my office. I was able to secure the visas, ensuring construction on the rink was completed on time.



## Clerical Error Fixed That Helped Dana Get Her Benefits Back

When Dana contacted my office, she was experiencing financial difficulties after being erroneously declared deceased. My office and I resolved the issue and ensured that Dana could re-open her bank account, receive her VA benefits, and get on with her life!



## Las Vegas Family Together for the Holidays

Don and his wife adopted a baby girl from Ethiopia five years ago, but when they submitted her citizenship application in 2018, they were faced with a two-year wait due to processing backlogs. My office and I helped expedite their little girl's application. Now she is a proud U.S. citizen, and the family is happily home in Las Vegas.

## Melvin on His Way to U.S. Citizenship Test

Melvin, a member of the Nevada National Guard, was ready to finalize his citizenship application when he was notified that a key form required a signature from a different officer than had originally signed it. My office and I worked with the National Guard to correct the form. Melvin passed his citizenship test and is awaiting his naturalization ceremony.

## Veteran Receives Much Deserved VA Benefits

When Susan tried to acquire VA benefits for her father Alfred, a veteran of both World War II and the Korean War, her claim was denied. My office was able to track down missing medical records that dated back to the 1950s and 1960s, allowing Susan to complete her father's application and preventing the VA from denying the claim once again.

If you need help navigating a federal agency or have questions about how my office can help you, visit:

[cortezmasto.senate.gov](http://cortezmasto.senate.gov)

# Hearing from Nevadans Across the Silver State

This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, my travels across Nevada look a bit different than last year's. Check out some of the highlights from my virtual meetings with Nevadans!

## Visit 1

During my August 2020 "Virtual Nevada Tour", I connected with hardworking local farmers, like those at Peri and Sons Farm, who are working overtime to deliver fresh food to Americans during the coronavirus pandemic. I also spoke with veterans advocating for resources for their communities and the staff of the [Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum](#).

## Visit 3

There are so many individuals and organizations across Nevada making a difference during the pandemic. I was glad to virtually meet with some of them in Washoe, [Humboldt](#), and Elko Counties this year. I was thrilled to attend a [virtual tour](#) of the Eddy House's 24-hour overnight shelter for youth and meet with health experts from Humboldt General Hospital.

## Visit 5

The impacts of the pandemic are different for every Nevadan. That's why I like hearing from Nevadans of all backgrounds about the innovative ways they are adapting to these difficult times. During my virtual tour of the family-owned [Hillside Dairy Farm](#) in Churchill County, we had productive conversations about the challenges and opportunities that Nevada's agricultural sector is facing during the pandemic.

## Visit 7

When I made virtual stops in [Clark and Lincoln County](#) this year, I had a great conversation with Lincoln County officials about how they are supporting their outdoor recreation economy. I also had the opportunity to host a few virtual events in Clark County to discuss my *Virtual Peer Support Act* and the *Child Welfare Emergency Assistance Act*, bills that aim to address child welfare and mental health.

## Visit 2

I also made virtual stops in Storey and Pershing Counties this summer. It was a pleasure participating in a [virtual tour of the Virginia City Boardwalk](#) and having productive conversations with [officials](#) in Pershing County and the City of Lovelock about how they're using Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfields funding to help revitalize the community.

## Visit 4

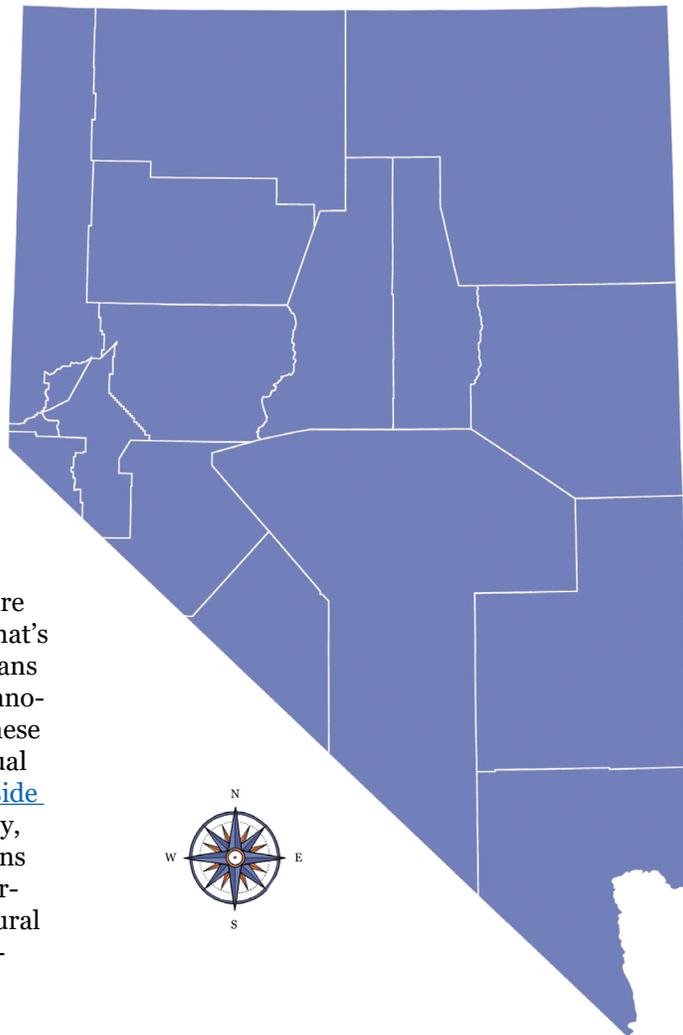
I always enjoy visiting White Pine, Lander and Eureka counties' vibrant communities. That's why I was glad to make [virtual stops](#) in these historic areas to speak with community leaders, county commissioners and local officials about how their communities are responding to the coronavirus pandemic.

## Visit 6

More veteran health care centers are transitioning medical appointments to virtual visits and telephone. As health care changes during the pandemic, I'm committed to hearing from Nevadans—especially veterans—about their needs. I was glad to host a [virtual roundtable discussion](#) with veterans from Pahrump on their telehealth experience with the VA during the pandemic and the challenges presented in delivering optimal care in rural communities.

## Visit 8

Organizations like Three Square have always provided vital services to Southern Nevadans, and during the pandemic they have continued rallying around those who need assistance. I was glad to see their incredible work firsthand during my [visit to their distribution site](#), thank them for all that they're doing for our community, and hear directly from Nevadans who are experiencing food insecurity.





SERVING THE SILVER STATE

## OFFICE LOCATIONS

### LAS VEGAS

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

### RENO

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

### WASHINGTON, DC

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

### RURAL MOBILE OFFICE

Serving Rural Nevada  
P: (775) 225-1457

