

The Honorable Hilda L. Solis
United States House of Representatives
“Profile in Courage” Selectee



Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis is serving her fourth term in Congress representing California's 32nd Congressional District. A nationally recognized leader on the environment, Solis became the first woman to receive the [John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award](#) in 2000 for her pioneering work on environmental justice issues. Her California environmental justice legislation, enacted in 1999, was the first of its kind in the nation to become law. Solis is also the first Latina to serve on the powerful [House Committee on Energy and Commerce](#), where she is Vice Chair of the Environment and Hazardous Materials Subcommittee and a member of the Health and Telecommunications Subcommittees.

Solis also serves on the [House Committee on Natural Resources](#) and in March 2007 was named a member of the newly created [House Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming](#). She is the Co-Vice Chair of the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee. She is a [Senior Whip](#), as well as a Regional Whip for Southern California. Solis is also Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Task Force on Health and the Environment, under which she spearheads annual summits across the country about racial and ethnic health disparities. In June 2007, Solis was elected Vice Chair of the General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions of the Helsinki [Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe](#). She is the only U.S. elected official.

A former Co-Chair of the bi-partisan Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues, Solis is an outspoken advocate for issues of importance to women and families. She has been a leader in efforts to end the murders of women in Guatemala and

the U.S. border town of Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, and played a key role in the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act in 2006.

Solis graduated from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, and earned a Master of Public Administration from the University of Southern California. She worked in the Carter White House Office of Hispanic Affairs and was later appointed as a management analyst with the Office of Management and Budget in the Civil Rights Division. Solis is a lifetime resident of the San Gabriel Valley and currently resides in the city of El Monte with her husband Sam, a small business owner. Her parents and six siblings continue to be a great source of inspiration to Congresswoman Solis.